



Urgent: COVID-19 Guideline Recommendation

Issued Monday, March 16, 2020: 5:00PM – Information is Subject to Change

To All Dentists and Dental Specialists:

As the facts and situation around COVID-19 (coronavirus) continue to develop, the Arkansas State Dental Association (ASDA) offers the following guidelines to Arkansas dentists:

In conjunction with the Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners, the ASDA recommends a voluntary suspension of all non-emergency or non-urgent dental care to all dental patients through March 27, 2020, or longer depending on the severity of the pandemic in Arkansas. By way of clarification, urgent and emergent situations could be those that, left untreated, may result in a visit to an emergency room, thereby requiring the use of medical staff time and resources best reserved for other medical conditions.

This statement is put forth as a recommendation, not a mandate. Each dentist is encouraged to use his or her best professional judgment in determining the best course of action for their patients, their staff, their families and themselves. As health care professionals, we all have a critical role to play in addressing the spread of the virus as we follow reliable advice from public health authorities. Our voluntary actions now can help to preserve personal protective equipment and supplies for emergency dental procedures and other frontline medical procedures.

The economic impact of this voluntary action will be significant. Please know that ASDA and the ADA will work closely with government and private lenders to develop economic relief packages to be made available at the earliest possible time.

For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19, please visit the ADA's Coronavirus Resource page at www.ada.org/virus. Also, see the Health Department's postings at www.healthy.arkansas.gov, or visit the ASDA's website at www.arkansasdentistry.org for frequent updates and contact information. Meantime, if we can be of service to you, feel free to contact us at 800-501-2732.