

Statement on CDC Guidelines

We have received a number of comments expressing concern and confusion about what the return to non-urgent and non-emergent care means in light of the CDC, in its [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response](#), continuing to recommend that only urgent and emergent services be performed.

Like other CDC guidelines, the COVID-19 recommendations are based on the best available evidence at the time of their publication. However, as recommendations, they are not mandatory and do not carry the force of law unless given that authority by statute or regulation. For example, Minnesota rules requires that Board of Dentistry licensees adhere to the Standard Precautions in the CDC's [Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings](#). The CDC's temporary COVID-19 recommendations are not part of this document or any other guidelines referenced in our Dental Practice Act. The Board did recommend that these guidelines be followed while the governor's order to postpone non-urgent and non-emergent procedures was in place. However, that order has now been lifted and licensees should revert back to the Standard Precautions but with additional requirements outlined in the Board and MDH recommendations.

We understand the apprehension associated with not following CDC interim recommendations to the letter. Please note that these guidelines are both temporary and national in scope, and do not necessarily reflect the often rapidly changing situation in individual states. Gov. Walz, with guidance from the Minnesota Department for Public Health and the Minnesota Board of Dentistry, has determined that the risks for oral health professionals can now be mitigated with proper protocols in place. However, the final decision is ultimately up to you. We expect everyone in the dental community to use their judgement to make the best decisions for their unique position. If you prefer to wait until the CDC updates its COVID-19 guidelines to return to active practice, you may do so. In the meantime, the Board will continue to monitor what is still a very fluid situation and will make changes to our guidelines as needed.