

BCDA Clarification on New WHO and US CDC Guidance for Dental Settings

The [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) and the US [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) recently updated their guidance for mitigating the transmission of COVID-19 in dental settings. The guidance is highly aligned with public health orders in effect since BC's Phase 3 Restart Plan began on May 19, 2020. We understand that these new documents may raise questions or concerns among the public about the safety of providing dental care during the pandemic.

Canada takes its guidance from Health Canada, who in turn work closely with provincial health officers. **The WHO and CDC guidance is intended for high-risk countries that have alarming rates of COVID-19 infections and widespread community transmission**, such as the United States, Brazil and Mexico. **Canada does not fit this profile.**

BC dentists have among the highest infection control standards in the world. We take our guidance from the Public Health Agency of Canada, Health Canada, our Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, and the College of Dental Surgeons of BC.

In partnership with your dentist, and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, BCDA reminds patients to please stay home if they have flu-like symptoms (fever, cough or difficulty breathing) or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Patients who are sick and have an upcoming dental appointment should call their dental office to report symptoms, reschedule or ask about other care options.

As the voice of dentistry in BC, BCDA is dedicated to serving the interests of its members and promoting oral health for all British Columbians.