

## **New!** Online Continuing Education

Virtual Qual IT Care Conference

April 20 - 21, 2020

HealthEfficient, DCPCA, and MACHC will host a **free, virtual** conference for community health center staff April 20th - 21st. Topics COVID-19 response, clinical staffing changes, telehealth, reimbursement, and the regulatory environment. Click here to view more information and register online.

Register [here](#)

DentaQuest has uploaded recordings from their **Teledentistry: Providing Alternative Care During a Public Health Crisis** and **Infection Control and Preventive Care During a National Health Crisis Parts 1 & 2** which can be accessed [here](#).

**Good news!** \$1 million in grants that the Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation has given to help support Virginia's dental practices and their patients, provide financial assistance for safety net dental clinics, and support local non-profits working to meet needs in their communities. Please see the attached PDF for further information.

## Upcoming Webinars

### **HRSA: Telehealth in the Time of COVID-19**

Monday, April 20 at 2:30 PM

Register [here](#)

### **Elevating Care: Proactive Interventions In a General Dentist Setting**

Tuesday, April 21 at 11:00 AM

Register [here](#)

### **DentaQuest: Infection Control Part 2: Questions & Answers About COVID-19**

Tuesday, April 21 at 1:00 PM

Register [here](#)

### **ADA: What, When, Who & How-Do You Have Your SOP Manual Completed?**

Tuesday, April 21 at 2:00 PM

Register [here](#)

### **Elevating Care: Treating and Preventing Oral Disease Through Locked Doors and Beyond**

Wednesday, April 22 at 11:00 AM

Register [here](#)

### **COVID-19/CARES Supplemental Funding for Health Centers Q&A Session**

Wednesday, April 22 at 2:00 PM

[Join the webcast](#) the day of the session

Call-in: 888-790-3515

Passcode: 5509950

### **Elevating Care: Oral Health Instructions for Special Needs Caregivers During COVID-19 and Beyond**

Thursday, April 23 at 11:00 AM

Register [here](#)

### **ADA: Nature's Booster Shot: Eating Smart to Combat COVID-19**

Thursday, April 23 at 2:00 PM

Register [here](#)

### Telehealth/Teledentistry Guidance

Thank you again to Virginia Health Catalyst for hosting this virtual Q&A Session this past Tuesday afternoon. For those who could not attend, please find links to the recording and powerpoint below. If you have other questions regarding teledentistry and implementation, remember to reach out!

- [Q&A recording](#)
- [Q&A powerpoint](#)
- [Practice Teledentistry Patient Visit with Dr. Nightengale](#) (14 minutes)

### [7 Steps to Implementing a Telehealth Program: COVID-19 Solutions](#)

- Consider sharing with your medical colleagues as well; much general guidance is application to both telehealth and teledentistry

### **Elevate Oral Care:** [Patient-Centered Communication](#)

Patient-Centered communication is key to improving oral health outcomes. This style of including the patient in their own oral health and treatment plan can result in improved care, and longlasting changes in habits that will improve oral health. In the video series, Dr. Matt Allen who is the only US dentist member of Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT), will introduce us to patient-centered communication. He will discuss the process as well as several examples of how to speak with patients that involve them in their own oral health.

### Clinical Guidance

[Virginia Dental Safety Net Clinic Status](#) (as of 04/18/2020)

[ADA Map of COVID-19 State Mandates and Recommendations](#)

### **New!** [ADA Interim Mask and Face Shield Guidelines](#)

These recommendations align with existing CDC recommendations for patients without signs/symptoms of COVID-19.

[ADA advises dentists to follow science-backed guidance regarding COVID-19 testing, avoid 'gray market'](#)

- Be cautious about using novel coronavirus diagnostic tests before they have been properly evaluated and made available for dentists
  - Note: very few tests have met a high standard for specificity and sensitivity
    - Potential for high rates of false negatives and false positives
  - Henry Schein does *not* plan to market its COVID-19 test (ID Covid Now) to dentists in the future
    - Currently, they are marketing to medical community, excluding dental
    - **HHS is distributing the tests to IHS and HRSA sites**
- The ADA "does not consider COVID-19 testing to be a scope of practice issue...The test is not diagnostic in a dental office"

- Dentists may need to obtain a Certificate of Waiver from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as well as the certificate to administer FDA-waived COVID-19 diagnostic tests, as required by the [Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments \(CLIA\)](#) regulation to administer the test
- The [ADA sent a letter to the HHS](#) requesting the agency to “issue federal recognition that licensed dentists may administer point of service tests authorized by the Food and Drug Administration” during the COVID-19 pandemic

#### [NIH study validates decontamination methods for re-use of N95 respirators](#)

3 strategies to effectively sanitize respirators for *limited* reuse

1. Vaporized hydrogen peroxide (VHP) - 10-minute treatment\*
2. Ultraviolet (UV) - must be applied for at least 60 minutes\*\*
3. 70-degree Celsius (158-degree Fahrenheit) dry heat - must be applied for at least 60 minutes \*\*

\*VHP-treated masks experienced no failures following decontamination treatment, suggesting they potentially could be re-used three times

\*\*UV and heat-treated respirators began showing fit and seal problems after three decontaminations — suggesting these respirators potentially could be re-used twice

These are *not* CDC guidance, however, worth consideration when maximizing lifetime use of your PPE.

[Surgical Mask Brace](#) (version 1.0) as designed by Fix The Mask: an alternative to improve seal of surgical mask if a N-95 is not available

- The Surgical Mask Brace has *not* yet been qualified via the CDC test method outlined in 42 CFR 84.
- Please review their comprehensive [FAQ](#) before deciding if you wish to implement in your clinics.

#### **STAR<sup>2</sup> Center Webinars**

##### [Health Center Workforce Deployment in COVID-19 Response Efforts](#)

- Discussion of general healthcare staff redeployment
- Consider sharing with your medical center(s) colleagues

##### [Engaging Dental Providers in COVID-19 Response Efforts](#) hosted in conjunction with **NNOHA**

- Identify alternative activities to engage dental providers in COVID-19 response
- Explore resources and strategies to support and retain dental providers who are furloughed
- Apply skills for rehiring mission-driven dental providers for the primary care setting
- Slides and additional webinars from NNOHA can be found [here](#)

##### **Elevate Oral Care: [The Silver Bulletin Vol. 9](#)**

- Latest developments in the world of Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) and Advantage Arrest® Silver Diamine Fluoride 38%
- This issue focuses on the most recent research and continuing education available on SDF, including Silver Diamine Fluoride as treatment for urgent dental treatment, SMART Oral Health Textbook, Elevating Care Education, and other resources and research

#### Community

[White House Guidelines: Opening Up America Again](#)

- There are no specific dates and it is recommended that states follow their governor's direction
- These are *general* guidelines for our communities
  - We have not received specific changes to mandates from Governor Northam since these guidelines were released
- Remember, what is phased for our community may look different for our community health centers and it is important we use best clinical judgement and reliable sources and collaborate during these times!

[Face Mask Basics: What You Should Know](#)

- A brief summary of resources to share with your patients on how to make at home cloth masks and utilize them appropriately

The Washington Post published two articles this week related to COVID-19 and dentistry.

- [Pandemic dental care: Keep brushing and flossing, but watch the popcorn and pen caps.](#)
- [Patients in pain, dentists in distress: In a pandemic, the problem with teeth](#)

The [New York Times](#) published an article discussing that while social distancing is important to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the patient population who are most at risk for the disease (i.e., the elderly) are the ones who also experience risk of adverse health outcomes due to isolation. In this article strategies different organizations and centers are taking to help minimize the amplified isolation many of our elderly are now facing.

[Anthem](#) shared these steps to help reduce COVID-19 anxiety

1. **Take control of the situation.** There are steps you can take to limit your risks of getting COVID-19. Wash your hands often. Don't touch your eyes, nose and mouth. And disinfect your home and work area regularly. For more suggestions, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) websites.
2. **Take care of yourself.** Eat nutritious food, exercise, limit alcohol consumption and make sleep a priority. Stay connected with family and friends online or by phone so you're not lonely.
3. **Stay informed by learning the facts.** Be sure to get your information from credible sources, such as the CDC and the WHO.
4. **Think about the impact you have on others.** Take preventive measures seriously. Talking with family and friends about the positive steps you're taking to stay safe will encourage them to do the same.
5. **Limit your media exposure to COVID-19 news.** Today's news cycle is 24/7, and the exposure can add to the stress. Unplug and give yourself some down time.