

Online Continuing Education

D4 Practice Solutions: Continuing Education Webinar Series

FQHC Dental Operations in a Time of Crisis

- Webinar I: Maximizing Dental Staff and Patient Safety
 - Wednesday, June 3rd at 12:00 PM
 - Register [here](#)
- Webinar II: Creating a New Paradigm: New Approaches to Care
 - Wednesday, June 10th at 12:00 PM
 - Register [here](#)
- Webinar III: Keeping the Lights On: Survival Strategies to Ensure Dental Program Viability
 - Wednesday, June 17th at 12:00 PM
 - Register [here](#)

Upcoming Webinars

DentaQuest Bringing Teledentistry Into Practice Series: Delivery Exceptional Care with interpersonal Skills

Tuesday, June 2nd at 1:00 PM EST

Register [here](#)

ProEdge Dental Water Labs: Safe Water Webinar

Tuesday, June 2nd at 1:00 PM EST

Register [here](#)

ADA: Rubber Dam 101

Wednesday, June 3rd at 2:00 PM EST

Register [here](#)

CDC COCA: Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response

Wednesday, June 3rd at 2:00 PM EST

No registration need, access the webinar [here](#) or [here](#) at viewing time

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Teledentistry Guidance

Mouthwatch: How to Make Teledentistry Part of a Safer Hygiene Workflow (presented on 05/27/2020)

- COVID-19 has greatly impacted the dental profession
- Important to remember that aerosols can be suspended in the air for up to 3 hours
- It is more important than ever to maintain good home care of our mouths
- GOAL: reduce risk overall
- 2 Huddles per day
 - Start of Day
 - End of Day - debrief, what went well, what did not, what can we improve?
- Prior to the pandemic, a RDH would wait on average 8± minutes for a hygiene check
- Challenges with PPE
 - Continued shortages -- maximize the supply you have
 - Donning and doffing
 - Additional time required (7 steps!)
 - Difficult in maintain conversation, especially when wearing a respirator

- Additional risk that the provider may be walking into a room where AGP was performed to complete a hygiene check
 - I.e., walking into a "dirty" environment
 - Additional, new PPE the provider must don and doff for a hygiene check -- this burns through PPE even faster
- Teledentistry has several advantages for hygiene workflow
 - Allows patient to connect with provider (virtually) face to face without PPE
 - Especially for COVID-19 high risk patients, allows them to connect with the provider in a safer environment
 - Eliminates wait time -- hygienist performs intraoral scan and documents any clinical findings for the DMD/DDS to review later and confirm diagnosis

Clinical Guidance

[Virginia Dental Safety Net Clinic Status](#)

[Framework for Healthcare Systems Providing Non-COVID-19 Clinical Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

- Provides healthcare systems with a framework to deliver non-COVID-19 health care during the COVID-19 pandemic

VCU Dental Care: [Welcome Back Video](#)

- Accompanied with a welcome back email to patients
- Describes new safety measures and talk through these changes
- Signage for different "zones" throughout the dental clinic
 - "cold zone" (i.e., low risk) - green
 - E.g., front desk
 - "warm zone" (i.e., moderate risk) - yellow
 - E.g., hallways by treatment rooms
 - "hot zone" (i.e., high risk) - red
 - E.g., treatment chair
- consistent "cover your cough" and "hand hygiene" signs throughout, including on the back of the dental chairs
- The signs for where to stand and blocking off chairs in the waiting room to enforce physical distancing, the need for a face covering
- In the video we see someone thoroughly wiping down the chairs and elevator, which are high touch surfaces

Community

In light of recent events around the country, I wanted to take a moment to share a message from Virginia Health Catalyst's CEO, Sarah Holland, from their Weekly Resources. I know many are struggling with our feelings at this time, please remember to reach out if you are feeling overwhelmed! This pandemic has heightened emotions across communities and I hope we continue to find comfort with one another and lift each other up during these times. As always, stay positive and stay healthy!

Front Line Innovations Blog Series - Racial Equity in Virginia

We started the Front Line Innovations blog series to highlight innovative and new approaches to improving oral health in Virginia. This week we had always planned to focus on systemic racism, with a [guest blog](#) and a [podcast](#) featuring author (and 2019 Summit featured speaker) Tamara Lucas Copeland. But as the Catalyst team prepares to send this to you, our closest partners, my heart is heavy and my mind is distracted. I am struck by a quote I just read, “racism isn’t getting worse, it’s just being filmed” and I am working hard to avoid the trap of fatalism (what can I possibly do?) and remember that organizations have power. I have power. And my responsibility is to cede and share this power to not only develop and implement equitable policies, care management protocols, and a public health system that works for everyone but to acknowledge that we cannot address the impact of racism without recognizing its many faces and forms, and its self-reinforcing nature.

I encourage all of you to read Tamara’s words and listen (or re-listen) to her summit conversation with Dr. Vanessa Walker Harris.

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Racism is at the core of many of Virginia's disparate health outcomes. And while innovation may seem an odd term to use to describe necessary solutions – the status quo is failing – and new approaches are vital to ensure equitable outcomes for everyone.

The COVID-19 pandemic media coverage has increased visibility of the racial inequities in our health care system, but simply acknowledging them isn’t enough. Tamara shares how decades of systemic racism have led to the inequities that have created significant racial disparities in COVID-19 cases. As a follow up to the blog, check out the podcast of her conversation with Vanessa Walker Harris to hear a frank conversation about the role race plays in health, and ways we can create a stronger health care system that works for all Virginians.