

ADA HPI: [COVID-19 Economic Impact on Public Health Dental Programs](#)

- Special wave of polling targeted towards dentists and dental clinics in a public health setting
- Patient volumes decreased significantly during the period of postponing elective care.
 - Private practices saw a larger decline than public health settings
- Most dentists in public health settings were being paid
 - Most non-owner dentists in private practice were not being paid
- 27% of dentists in public health settings worked in other departments at their health center, primarily assisting with COVID-19 screening and testing
- 70% of dental team members in public health settings worked in other departments in their health center, primarily with COVID-19 testing support and administrative support
- Dentists in public health were more likely to embrace teledentistry

Upcoming Webinars

NRHA: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Perspective of 2 Infectious Disease Physicians

Tuesday, June 9th at 3:00 PM

Register [here](#)

D4 Practice Solutions - Webinar II: Creating a New Paradigm: New Approaches to Care

Wednesday, June 10th at 12:00 PM

Register [here](#)

DentaQuest: Webinar: COVID-19 Impact on Health Inequity

Thursday, June 11th at 1:00 PM

Register [here](#)

CNET: Cleaning Processes for Reopening to Ensure a Safe Environment

Thursday, June 11th at 2:00 PM

Register [here](#)

HRSA: Workforce Grand Rounds Webinar Series: Combating Healthcare Provider Burnout in Clinical Settings

Wednesday, June 17th at 2:00 PM

Register [here](#)

Teledentistry Guidance

DentaQuest: Bringing Teledentistry Into Practice - Webinar 2: Delivering Exceptional Care with Interpersonal Skills

- Teledentistry is here to stay
 - Part of re-opening strategies for many dental practices
 - Overcoming many barriers to care
- Dental / oral health is a top health priority as reported by patients
- Prior to COVID-19, 78% of surveyed patients anticipated using teledentistry in the next 5 years
- Patients perceive teledentistry to be beneficial in
 - Health education and promotion
 - Diagnosis and disease management
 - Preventive Procedures
- To be successful with teledentistry you need to engage your patient

- At home, a patient can open another browser window and look up the answer to the question they just asked you
- Make these encounters valuable
- SHARE during teledentistry - [informational video](#)
 - Setting and Speech
 - Keep your background clear and neutral
 - Ensure you will not be interrupted
 - Minimize outside noise as much as possible
 - Try to avoid bulky headphones and/or microphones
 - Consider small wireless earbuds and a lapel microphone
 - GOAL: look as much like yourself without additional technology
 - If your patient keeps asking “what”, slow down and speak clearly into the camera
 - Hold eye contact
 - Look at the camera, not at the screen
 - Position camera to be at eye level
 - If you need to look at another part of your screen (e.g., to review an x-ray), inform your patient that is what you are doing
 - Ask open ended questions
 - Relationally share information
 - Explore → Offer → Explore
 - I.e., what the patient knows → information from DHCP → what does the patient think of this information
 - Express gratitude and warmth
 - Often these feelings are lost with virtual communication and should be made more explicit during your teledentistry visits
- Teledentistry changes the communication style, but not the type of care patients are receiving
- This is an opportunity to engage with your patients beyond the stigma of the dental operator
- Consider sending home a [self management sheet](#) to help your patient with goal setting discussion either before or after teledentistry visit

Clinical Guidance

[Virginia Dental Safety Net Clinic Status](#)

NACHC: [Reimagining Oral Health Care in Health Centers Beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

- In this blog post, Dr. Don Weaver, Senior Advisor for Clinical Workforce at NACHC, discusses efforts prior to COVID-19 to overcome barriers to dental care and how COVID-19 has impacted these efforts
- NACHC has developed a [Value Transformation Framework](#) that can provide a lens to look at these new challenges and how to adapt in a post-pandemic world

NACHC: Re-imagining Care: Reopening Dental Practices Webinar 06/04/2020

- Dr. Isaac Zeckel, HealthLinc in IL
 - PPE:
 - Identify an area for taking PPE on/off, sanitizing, etc.
 - Have staff practice
 - Staff demonstrate to leadership as a check
 - Limit movement with PPE via signage

- Set expectations for patients – note what will be different, like no magazines in the waiting room
- Address staff communications needs; address their concerns
- Develop templates and workflows
- Keep staff motivated by celebrating successes
- Continuing to do immunizations chairside – flu, HPV, COVID-19
- Same day dental checks for well child checks, pregnant women, and diabetics
- Stephen Davis, DDS, Farmworkers Clinic in Pacific NW:
 - Used mobile units for COVID testing
 - Rotated dental staff two weeks on, two weeks off
 - Use a burn rate calculator to understand how much supply of PPE they have and need
 - Installing exhaust fans in closed operatories
 - Increasing MERV rating for inline filters
 - Phase 3 is full staffing, same-day point of care testing (QUIDEL) if they fail screening
- Dr. E. Michele Chambliss, DNP, MS, RN, FAAN, NACHC
 - CHCs must consider the state, local, federal guidance, association guidance, including state dental boards and health departments
 - CHCs must assess whether the care they’re providing meets their standard of care; do not jeopardize health licenses of providers
 - Documentation is key – when in doubt, document. Store in central file and plan to keep it for 5+ years.

Current Data on Coronavirus Disease Characteristics in Children and Considerations for Dental Providers

- The full editorial can be accessed [here](#)
- Children often exhibit similar, but milder symptoms than adult patients
- Due to children’s often asymptomatic or mild exhibition of symptoms, it is important to consider that all children may be carriers of SARS-cov-2
- Different countries have different guidelines in place when it comes to delivering dental care during COVID-19
- Emphasis placed on proper donning and doffing of appropriate PPE, including when providing dental care to pediatric patients
- Remember, guidance cannot cover *all* possible circumstances and professional judgement should be exercised
- The authors noted that managing the risk from the treatment itself can be accomplished by carrying out the least invasive treatment possible, and avoiding AGPs whenever possible
 - Many of these treatment options are founded on contemporary cariology, well documented in the scientific literature, and minimally invasive by their nature
- Remember, pandemic experience and staging will vary geographically
- When treating children during this pandemic, dentists should follow universal infection control procedures to the highest standard
- This is an excellent opportunity to promote preventive dental treatments and strategies
- Consider implementation of minimally invasive techniques during this pandemic and beyond as we transition into new care

Community

AIDPH: [Resources on racial equity in oral health](#)

Oral Health and Progress Equity Network: [LGBTQIA+ NRT Survey](#)

The LGBTQIA+ Network Response Team (NRT) is looking for ways to understand and strengthen the LGBTQIA community to support oral health equity. We have compiled a brief survey to help us analyze the needs and perceptions of the network to inform our work.

Washington Post: [‘This is what happens to us.’](#)

- A well written discussion on how “U.S. cities lost precious time to protect black residents from the coronavirus”

Stay-at-home Orders are impacting other aspects of health

- [Stay-at-Home Orders Could Mean More Obese Kids: Study](#)
 - Consider integrating nutrition discussions utilizing [ADA Mouth Healthy](#) resources, especially during teledentistry visits
- Concern regarding decline in childhood vaccines as discussed by [The Hill](#) and [CNN](#)
 - As dental professionals many of us are aware of the link between HPV and oral cancer. Consider integrating discussion of the [HPV vaccine](#) with your patients and their parents during review of medical histories.

SAMHSA: [COVID-19 Hub](#)

- Pay attention to mental health and SUD needs post-COVID for both patients and providers

Letter from [House E&C to HHS, Release the Provider Relief Funds](#)

“The Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committees of jurisdiction over the Medicaid program wrote to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar today expressing concern over prolonged delays in disbursing funds from the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF) for Medicaid-dependent providers...Medicaid providers have diverse needs for relief funding and often operate on thin margins without the same reserves as other providers that have already received distributions from HHS. While some need assistance to help keep their doors open, others need financial assistance to maintain a workforce to serve those in need. These providers also often work in extremely close proximity to their patients, placing them at risk of COVID-19 transmission without adequate personal protective equipment.”