COVID-19 Resources

Each Friday Virginia Health Catalyst shares the latest resources for COVID-19. For more up-to-date resources visit the Catalyst COVID-19 resource page.

Emergency-only Dental Care Order Extended to May 1

Governor Northam extended his Order of Public Health Emergency 2, which, among other things, prolongs the order for emergency-only dental services to **May 1,** though he may extend the order again. Earlier this week Governor Northam spoke with VDA President Dr. Elizabeth Reynolds about the order extension, as well as PPE in dental settings. You can view the Q&A here.

The American Dental Association and others are developing guidelines to aid clinicians in the re-opening process. As these become available Catalyst will share information on the Tooth Talk listserve and our COVID-19 resource pagewhich has a host of resources for clinicians and other partners including workflows and teledentistry resources. Stay tuned as we all prepare for the new normal!

ADA Health Policy Institute Analyzes Economic Toll of COVID-19

COVID-19 has had a dramatic impact on all aspects of health care, including the dental care community. The ADA Health Policy Institute, ADA HPI, is conducting surveys with private practice dentists across the country to understand the financial impact it has on dental practices. Of note:

- Dental practices may close: When asked how dentists will sustain their practices if current emergency-only restrictions continue 18% of private practice dentists indicated they do not think they can sustain their practices through June, that number jumps to 46% if restrictions are necessary through August.
- Dental teams are not being paid: Since the first survey was collected the week of March 23 the number of dental practices paying staff has decreased, 27% of dental offices were paying staff fully the week of March 23, compared to 11% the week of April 6.
- Almost all dental offices are adhering to emergency-only restrictions: 79% of dental offices say they are only open for emergency dental appointments, and 18% have closed completely. Most dental practices, if open, are operating at less than 5% of their normal patient volume.

Along with survey data, ADA HPI has released a new research brief on the long-term impact COVID-19 will have on the dental community. The report estimates the dental industry could see spending decline by up to 66% in 2020 and 32% in 2021 and offers different models of the potential impact. While the research brief stresses that there are many unknown factors, it is clear that COVID-19 will have a long-lasting impact on oral health care.

Policy Resources:

- New Executive Order Makes Accessing Medicaid Services Easier (Governor Northam)
On Thursday Governor Northam signed Executive Order 58 which gives DMAS flexibility to make health services more accessible for Medicaid enrollees. It includes eliminating copayments for FAMIS recipients and streamlines the admission process for nursing homes.

- Summary of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (National Conference of State Legislatures – NCSL)
Congress has passed the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act which is now with the President to sign. NCSL provides a summary of the legislation and its impact on health care, including $600 million in funding for community health centers and federally qualified health centers as well as $225 million for rural health clinics.

- Medicaid's Role in the Next Phase of COVID-19 Response: Part I (Center for Healthcare Strategies – CHCS)
State Medicaid agencies and MCOs are uniquely positioned to support surveillance activities during COVID-19. This article describes how they can assist in efforts like contact tracing, testing, resource procurement, and adjusting programs to meet specific population needs.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.