



## COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

---

# PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JANETTE ANGULO, M.P.A.  
*Director*

STEPHEN MUNDAY, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.  
*Health Officer*

May 21, 2020

**TO:** Dental Providers in Imperial County

**FROM:** Stephen Munday, M.D., MPH  
Health Officer

**RE: RESUMING DEFERRED AND PREVENTIVE DENTAL CARE**

**Dentists may resume deferred and preventive dental care as prescribed by the California Department of Public Health. Please refer to the following link for guidance issued on May 7, 2020:**

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance-for-Resuming-Deferred-and-Preventive-Dental-Care--.aspx>

This guidance was not reflected in the updated Public Health Officer Order, dated May 9, 2020.

According to the Occupational Safety and Healthy Administration's (OHSA) Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19, dental health care personnel (DHCP) are in the very high-risk category for exposure to SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 when they are performing certain aerosol generating procedures. This risk requires a level of heightened awareness, training, preparation, and adherence to a combination of standard and transmission-based precautions as appropriate to ensure the safe provision of care. At minimum, dental practitioners must follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for:

- Engineering controls and work practices;
- Infection prevention and control measures including: source control (requires facemasks at all times for everyone entering the dental setting; personal protective equipment (PPE) use, during clinical care; hand hygiene; screening and monitoring of DHCP; and patient management).

Dental providers should also regularly check the local health department website at <http://www.icphd.org> for information and important updates about COVID-19, including case counts and hospitalizations and the impact on the health care delivery system. Depending on the conditions in a community, and based guidance from the State, the local public health officer may issue or update the current “stay-at-home” order. Components of the Order that are more stringent than the State’s Public Health Orders must be followed.

Guidance is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of COVID-19 and the implications for dental practice. Thank you for your cooperation and vigilance during this pandemic. Should you have any questions, please contact me at [StephenMunday@co.imperial.ca.us](mailto:StephenMunday@co.imperial.ca.us).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Stephen Munday'.

Stephen Munday, M.D.,  
MPH  
Health Officer