



**We encourage MDA members to share this message with your colleagues.**

A Message from the President of the Manitoba Dental Association

March 17, 2020

**Re: Provincial Guidance Related to Dentistry in Manitoba**

**In direct consultation with CEO of Shared Health MB, Chief Medical Officer of Health MB and Chief Nursing Officer MB, the Manitoba Dental Association (MDA) Board is strongly recommending that all non-essential and elective dental services should be postponed until further notice. Emergency treatment should continue.**

We will revisit this recommendation in the first week of April.

The MDA regulates dentistry in Manitoba in the public interest. We have received calls over the past few days from the public, dentists, and industry representatives expressing concern related to dental practice and the potential of putting their patients, communities, and staff at risk.

In addition, suppliers tell us they are becoming short on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and that many health care providers in community settings have not been able to secure a reasonable supply of PPE.

These factors, along with the call for effective social distancing, make it clear that a strong response is required to be part of the solution toward “flattening the curve.” The COVID-19 event continues to be a fluid situation. The Province of Manitoba is dedicating a tremendous amount of resources in order to keep provincial healthcare bodies/authorities and the general public updated by the hour on COVID-19.

In person meetings at the MDA will be suspended, virtual meetings will occur as needed.

The MDA Board’s official position is that our primary sources for information related to COVID-19 include:

- Manitoba Health <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/index.html>
- Shared Health <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/health-providers/coronavirus-resources/>
- Health Canada <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada.html>

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