

Message to the Members of the Manitoba Dental Assistants Association June 2, 2020

Dear Member,

I hope that this letter finds you all well and safe. During these unprecedented times of COVID-19, our priorities should be with our families and loved ones. For some of us there is a question of what, how or when we may be entering back into the workforce? It is a hard time for some not knowing what kind of dental world we will enter; there may be a “new normal.” Our employment is relative to this and we should consider ourselves to be “Essential” employees, as part of the dental office team. As a group, RDA’s have to come together and support one another to continue to work within our guidelines. We all need to feel safe and confident that how we are working is good practice. We have a duty to not only our employers, co-workers and patients but mostly to ourselves and our families.

We all know there are still challenges with acquiring PPE materials, but there are many offices getting back to work and acquiring PPE, slowly but surely. Please read the information you receive making sure that it is the most updated release, know the standard practices and ensure you have the proper PPE accessible to provide the services you have been trained for. We have access to many guidelines and protocols on the MDA (Manitoba Dental Association), the MDAA (Manitoba Dental Assistants Association) and the CDAA (Canadian Dental Assistants Association) websites. Additionally, there is Shared Health’s website, which is an excellent resource. The resources are there to provide clear guidelines and information to what we need to provide effective protective care for our patients and ourselves.

I encourage each of you to contact the MDAA office 204 586-7383 or mdaa@mdaa.ca should you have any questions or concerns, or if you are just looking for some guidance.

On May 22/2020 the latest Pathway and IPC guideline from the MDA was introduced;

<https://www.manitobadentist.ca/PDF/COVID-19/May%2022%202020%20Pathway%20and%20Interim%20IPC%20Guidance%20for%20Patient%20Care%20During%20Phase%202%20of%20the%20COVID-19%20Response.pdf>

Also attached is the Province of Manitoba Phase 2 of Restoring Safe Services:
https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/2020_2021/restoring-safe-services-phase-2.pdf

I will end this with a THANK YOU and remind everyone we should be grateful for the bubble in this province that we are lucky enough to live in.

Trina Bourgeois RDA
Acting President of the Manitoba Dental Assistants Association