

SCRANTON DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY

SDDS Stronger Together

A Word from Our President, Dr. Samantha Abod

Much appreciation goes out to our board members and general membership who have made tremendous sacrifices in their own practices and wrote letters, signed petitions participated in group discussions and made contacts which affected changes to DOH recommendations; this kept the voice of our group a priority during this disaster. We truly are stronger together and I'm honored to be a part of this organization with you!

We know that this is a very difficult time for many of you so we want to share some information that may help you navigate this storm. First, we know you have questions and we want you to know that you always have a resource in your local, district and national dental societies and we encourage you to seek membership if you have not already done so. We have included some very helpful guidelines and resources in this newsletter for your benefit.

First, please see the article featuring the latest PA Department of Health guidelines. For the entire article, go to the PDA website or click on this link: <https://www.padental.org/docs/website/membership/covid19/GuidanceCOVID19DentalHealthCarePersonnelinPennsylvania.pdf>

In addition, there is also an article on the ADA's guide to help you decide on what constitutes an emergency in your practice.

We encourage our members to monitor legislation and make your voices heard through letter-writing contributions, which will aid in the betterment of our profession by visiting <https://actioncenter.ada.org/>.

Locally, we have organized a task force of your colleagues to field questions and thoughts about the broad effects of the COVID-19 virus and quarantine protocols. This group is comprised of the below doctors who are here to help you find answers and give you piece of mind in this overwhelming time of uncertainty and change in our profession. Feel free to reach out to them with any questions.

Dr. Darleen Oleski - droleski93@aol.com

Dr. Chuck Scrimalli - chuckmarias@yahoo.com

Dr. Chris Kotchick - ckotchick@comcast.net

Dr. Tom Langan - tal413@gmail.com

Dr. Samantha Abod - abod@qmaortho.com

Finally, the SDDS Board will be meeting Mondays at 3 PM via ZOOM. If you would like to join the online meeting, please email Dr. Samantha Abod at abod@qmaortho.com with the following in the reference line: SDDS ZOOM Board Meeting.

If you haven't done so already, "like" our Facebook page (@scrantondentalsociety) for more updates.

PDAGo

Application Key to Latest Information

To stay abreast of the latest regulations, recommendations, and information, be sure you have downloaded and signed-on to the PDA smart phone application, "PDAGo." Simply go to your carrier's app store and download the app. After you download the app, log in with the following user name and password. The user name is the first initial of your first name and full last name (all in CAPS) followed by the year of your birth. The password is the letters "ada" (lower case) followed by your ada number.

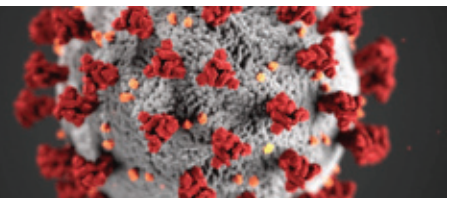
For example:

Username: JSMITH1975

Password: ada123456789

Along with real-time updates that are vital to your practice success, we have created private chat groups for both the SDDS and Third District. Simply open the app, click on the icon with the 3 dots on the bottom, right-hand side and click on "messages." Then, click on "group." Select the group you want to join. If you don't see "Scranton District" or "3rd District" on your group tab, email Dr. Charles Scrimalli at chuckmarias@yahoo.com and he will add you.

COVID-19 Resources For Dentists



Emergency or Non-Emergency?

ADA Offers Guidance for Determining Dental Procedures

In a statement issued on March 16, the American Dental Association (ADA) called upon dentists nationwide to postpone elective dental procedures for three weeks in order for dentistry to do its part to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Concentrating on emergency dental care only during this time period will allow dentists and their teams to care for emergency patients and alleviate the burden that dental emergencies would place on hospital emergency departments.

The ADA recognizes that state governments and state dental associations may be best positioned to recommend to the dentists in their regions the amount of time to keep their offices closed to all but emergency care. This is a fluid situation, and those closest to the issue may best understand the local challenges being faced.

The following should be helpful in determining what is considered “emergency” versus “non-emergency.” This guidance may change as the COVID-19 pandemic progresses, and dentists should use their professional judgment in determining a patient’s need for urgent or emergency care.

1. Dental emergency

Dental emergencies are potentially life threatening and require immediate treatment to stop ongoing tissue bleeding, alleviate severe pain or infection, and include:

- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Cellulitis or a diffuse soft tissue bacterial infection with intra-oral or extra-oral swelling that potentially compromise the patient’s airway
- Trauma involving facial bones,

potentially compromising the patient’s airway

Urgent dental care focuses on the management of conditions that require immediate attention to relieve severe pain and/or risk of infection and to alleviate the burden on hospital emergency departments. These should be treated as minimally invasively as possible.

- Severe dental pain from pulpal inflammation
- Pericoronitis or third-molar pain
- Surgical post-operative osteitis, dry socket dressing changes
- Abscess, or localized bacterial infection resulting in localized pain and swelling.
- Tooth fracture resulting in pain or causing soft tissue trauma
- Dental trauma with avulsion/luxation
- Dental treatment required prior to critical medical procedures
- Final crown/bridge cementation if the temporary restoration is lost, broken or causing gingival irritation

Other urgent dental care:

- Extensive dental caries or defective restorations causing pain
- Manage with interim restorative techniques when possible (silver diamine fluoride, glass ionomers)
- Suture removal
- Denture adjustment on radiation/oncology patients
- Denture adjustments or repairs when function impeded
- Replacing temporary filling on endo access openings in patients experiencing pain
- Snipping or adjustment of an orthodontic wire or appliances piercing or ulcerating the oral mucosa

2. Dental non-emergency procedures

Routine or non-urgent dental procedures include but are not limited to:

- Initial or periodic oral examinations and recall visits, including routine radiographs
- Routine dental cleaning and preventive therapies
- Orthodontic procedures other than those to address acute issues (e.g. pain, infection, trauma)
- Extraction of asymptomatic teeth
- Restorative dentistry including treatment of asymptomatic carious lesions
- Aesthetic dental procedures

The ADA is committed to providing the latest information to the profession in a useful and timely manner. Please visit [ADA.org/virus](https://www.ada.org/virus) for the latest information.

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Latest PA Department of Health Information

Below, please find the document issued by the PA DOH. Since it is rather lengthy, the first page has been included. To read the remainder, type in the following web address or click here: <https://www.paden-tal.org/docs/website/membership/covid19/GuidanceCOVID19DentalHealthCarePersonnelinPennsylvania.pdf>

March 26, 2020

With the Governor's authorization as conferred in the Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued on March 6, 2020, effective immediately the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) directs facilities to cease all dental treatment except urgent and emergency procedures within the provided guidelines below until further notice. We ask providers who will need to close due to this notice to remain available to speak to patients and triage calls for dental emergencies.

WHAT ACTION IS DOH DIRECTING DENTISTS TO TAKE?

Due to the increasing cases of COVID-

19 across the Commonwealth and the acknowledgement that some infected patients have minimal symptoms but may have person-to-person transmission potential, effective immediately, consistent with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), DOH directs facilities to cease all dental treatment except urgent and emergency procedures within the provided guidelines below until further notice. We ask providers who will need to close due to this notice to remain available to speak to patients and triage calls for dental emergencies.

Urgent and emergency dental procedures are likely to occur, and facilities should be prepared to respond for asymptomatic patients who are not suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.

- Before any urgent or emergency treatment is considered, conduct a pre-interview screening over the phone to ask if urgent or emergency care is required (uncontrolled bleeding, facial swelling, abscess, pain, trauma, etc.). Assess for

presence of symptoms of COVID-19 including fever, cough, shortness of breath or myalgia.

- If the dental concern does not require urgent or emergency treatment, cancel the appointment until further notice.
- If the patient is not suspected of having COVID-19, proceed with urgent or emergency treatment using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and disinfection procedures consistent with usual standards of care.
- If the patient is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 during pre-interview screening, follow procedures outlined in this guidance below.

In areas where community transmission of the virus responsible for COVID-19 is occurring, a patient presenting with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough, shortness of breath or myalgia) should be suspected of having COVID-19 and treated using the guidance procedures below for COVID-19 patients.

April 1st CE Course Now Online!

If you haven't registered for the April 1st pharmacology Continuing Education Series course with Dr. Thomas Viola, now is your chance! Because the physical meeting had to be canceled, Dr. Thomas Viola has adapted his 6 credit course to a webinar on Wednesday April 1, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

If you already signed up for the course, all you need to do is register for the webinar with the link below and we will get your CE certificates to you. If you registered and are unable to attend course remotely, then you will get a future refund. If you haven't registered at all, you can sign-up and pay via the SDDS website.

It is easy. All you need to do is click the link at the bottom of the page and Dr. Viola will send you a follow-up email with information on the course and log in credentials.

No special technology is needed. A computer with audio, iPad or smart phone will all work.

Please contact us if you have any questions. Course description and registration information follows.

Joe Kelly
Drkellyjr@gmail.com
Cell 570-885-0716

Matthew Zale
mattzale1@gmail.com
Cell 570-357-4517

If you wish to participate in the webinar:

1. At your earliest convenience, please click on the link below. You will be prompted to provide your name and email. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8311953169594099469>

1. You will receive a confirmation email from Dr. Thomas Viola.

2. On the date/time of the course, (Wed, Apr 1, 2020 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM EDT) click on the link in the confirmation email to join the live webinar.

If you already paid for the physical meeting then you are all set!

If you are joining now please pay at this link:

<https://www.scrantondental.org/product/course-4-medically-complex-patients/>

Essential Pharmacology for Treating Medically Complex Dental Patients, Plus Frequently Prescribed Medications and Clinical Dental Considerations

The morning session of this course will provide an overview of the dental implications of the prescription medications, nonprescription medications, herbal products, nutritional supplements and substances of abuse most frequently used by patients. Special emphasis will be given to delivering this essential information in a format which makes it practical and useful for all members of the dental team.

In the afternoon: The challenge faced by all clinicians today is to provide safe and effective dental treatment to our medically complex patients. Many dental professionals may find it challenging to stay up to date with the latest prescribing trends in disease state management. This program will provide an overview of those frequently prescribed brand name medications whose actions, side effects, contraindications and potential drug interactions may have the greatest impact on dental therapy.