

Let's TALK about...

... being vigilant inside and outside the Op!

Overview

To date, good infection prevention control practices have resulted in no patient transmission of COVID19 in dental offices in Canada. However, there are case reports from general office settings outside of Canada related to staff-to-staff transmission. This offers the dental profession early lessons and demonstrates the consequences of pandemic fatigue. CDA developed a three-part poster series to raise dental staff's awareness of the importance of being vigilant inside and outside the "Op."

Recommended Approach

Effective communications with dental office team are vital to help avoid the spread of COVID-19.

This document is intended to help you in your regular team huddles. Verbal communication works best and some individuals may need to hear a message multiple times in order to incorporate it or change a behaviour.

The poster series create an opening during the team huddle to discuss the importance of being vigilant inside and outside the office.

- ✓ **Be timely** and attempt to schedule time with your team on the same day that the posters go up.
- ✓ **Lead by example:** do what you ask your staff to do.
- ✓ Conclude with **answering their questions.**

Timeline

The poster series can be used at any time during the COVID-19 pandemic. Both English and French versions of the posters are available. Please contact your provincial dental association (PDA) to inquire whether the co-branded versions of this document/poster series are available, which display the Canadian Dental Association and your PDA logos for added credibility.

Key Points to Cover

- After months of managing COVID-19, many people are starting to experience pandemic fatigue or feeling "COVID tired."
- This is a very real feeling of exhaustion stemming from the effects of the pandemic, both on our personal- and professional lives.
- One issue with pandemic fatigue is that people are starting to let their guard down outside of work – this includes not always following social distancing "rules", having larger social gatherings, and not wearing masks when they should be. These types of activities have caused cluster outbreaks across our communities, putting our populations at risk.
- As a team, we need to work together to avoid the spread of infection in our community – but we also need to avoid bringing it into the office.
- To date, good infection prevention control practices have resulted in no patient transmission of COVID19 in dental offices in Canada.
- We are doing a great job at being vigilant in the operatory with patients. We are doing everything we are supposed to be doing.
- The Canadian Dental Association recently advised that there are case reports from general office settings related to staff-to-staff transmission.
- While these case reports are outside of Canada, the chances are, more cases may arise as time goes by and individuals grow more "COVID tired."
- These types of staff-to-staff transmission cases offer the dental profession early lessons.

- New in our office today, you will see three types of posters. These are ever-present reminders for all of us to be more vigilant - not only in the operatory - but also when we leave for the day to enjoy our home and social lives.
- As health-care workers, we are respected by our patients as having knowledge about the prevention of infections. We should continue being vigilant to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the office, as well as outside the office.
- Please don't let your guard down at work or home. Here are some important reminders for us:

#1: When to Wear your Personal Mask

- ✓ At all times in the office when not wearing PPE as part of clinical duties.
- ✓ Socializing at gatherings with family and friends.
- ✓ Going about life activities in the community.

#2: Never let your guard down. Keep your social distance.

- ✓ Between patients and especially when in Common areas: lunchroom, sterilization room, washroom.
- ✓ Social settings with family and friends.
- ✓ Clean hands frequently.

#3: Avoid:

- ✓ Non-essential travel.
- ✓ Coming into contact with others who have travelled.
- ✓ Crowded places where social distancing is difficult to control, such as bars, restaurants, beaches, and house parties.
- ✓ Contact with others who have or are suspected to have COVID-19.