New COVID-19 Guidance for Resuming Deferred and Preventive Dental Care

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) strongly recommends Medi-Cal dental providers review the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance for resuming deferred and preventive dental care amidst the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. CDPH’s guidance includes specific criteria regarding local infection rates, personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements, COVID-19 screenings for patients and infection control clarifications from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- Providers must ensure they have adequate supplies including and sanitation supplies.
- It is strongly recommended that dental practices have a minimum 2-week supply of PPE for dentists and staff. This includes N95 respirators, face shields, goggles, surgical masks, and other infection control equipment.
- Dental offices should require the use of facemasks or cloth face coverings by all patients prior to entering the dental office and while they wait to be seen; this will minimize emissions of infectious particles by patients who are infected but asymptomatic. Dental offices

Continued on pg 2
should consider having a supply of facemasks or cloth face coverings to provide to patients who arrive without their own.

• Place visual alerts such as signs and posters at entrances and in strategic places providing instruction on hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and cough etiquette.

Providers are encouraged to regularly monitor the [CDPH website](https://www.cdph.ca.gov) for updates as they become available. Providers can also visit the California Dental Association (CDA) website for [practice support resources](https://www.cdaonline.org), including a [checklist](https://www.cdaonline.org) and [county-specific information](https://www.cdaonline.org).