



## COVID-19 Prevention and Guidance May 2021

CTDHP has combed through the latest guidance from the CT Department of Health, the CSDA, the ADA and the CDC. We hope this is helpful in continuing to keep you, your staff and your patients safe.

### 1. Continue to Wear Masks in Dental Offices

CT Department of Public Health released guidance to provide a better understanding of the State's recently modified mask and face covering policies that are now in effect. **All people (vaccinated or unvaccinated) need to wear a mask when they are inside a healthcare facility, including dental offices.**

### 2. Continue COVID Infection Control Policies

Dental offices should continue to implement COVID infection control protocols and follow the latest CDC's guidance. These include:

- Posting visual alerts (e.g., signs, posters) at the entrance and in strategic places to provide instructions about wearing a well-fitting facial covering and how and when to perform hand hygiene.
- Providing tissues for respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette, and supplies such as alcohol-based hand sanitizer and no-touch receptacles for disposal at facility entrances, waiting rooms, and patient check-in areas.
- Limiting and monitoring points of entry to the facility.

### 3. Continue to Screen Patients and Dental Office Staff

The CDC instructs health care providers to continue to maintain a process to ensure everyone entering a health care facility is assessed for symptoms of COVID-19. Symptom screening remains an important strategy to identify those who could have COVID-19.

The information presented herein is for educational purposes only based on our review of the recommendations. The CTDHP urges dental offices to reach out to the CDC or component societies for further detailed guidelines.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your specialty dental academy or society. You may also contact your malpractice insurance company to learn what their requirements are.

#### Resources:

##### Guidance for Dental Offices from the CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html>

##### Infection and Prevention Control in Dental Settings:

<https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/index.html>

##### **CDC: Continue to take COVID-19 precautions after being vaccinated**

<https://www.ada.org/en/publications/ada-news/2021-archive/march/cdc-continue-to-take-covid-19-precautions-after-being-vaccinated>