



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of
Commerce, Community and
Economic Development**

DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS
AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
Board of Dental Examiners

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March 20, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

The Alaska Board of Dental Examiners (Board) has been monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic that is sweeping the nation and the world and issues the following guidance. Given the emerging information, the Board stresses the importance for all dental practitioners to defer all non-essential and elective procedures with immediate effect for a period covered under the Governor's COVID-19 Health Mandate 006: Elective Dental Procedures. We ask that you provide your patients with emergency contact information for yourself or colleague dentists who have developed some kind of emergency schedules to help keep patients from seeking care in a medical emergency room.

On April 8th, 2020 the Board will meet again and shortly thereafter will provide an update on the current situation and our effort to gain more statutory authority that would allow the Board to determine how dentistry is practiced and delivered to the public during declared emergencies like the COVID -19 pandemic. Being able to act quickly with information gathered from the American Dental Association the Alaska Dental Society the CDC and other sources will allow the dental profession to customize response and react appropriately during emergencies.

Dental providers should remember that they are highly vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus due to the aerosol created from dental procedures. As responsible healthcare providers, we implore dentist to do their part to help slow the spread of COVID-19 by using sound clinical judgement when it comes to what constitutes a dental emergency. We may receive more state and federal guidance over the next few weeks concerning how providers should properly screen and safely treat patients to prevent transmission of the virus, but for now the Board offers the following guidance.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Nielson".

David Nielson, DDS
President, Alaska Board of Dental Examiners