



Alaska Board of Dental Examiners Announcements

April 10th, 2020

- On April 9th, 2020, Governor Dunleavy amended COVID-19 Health Mandate 006, "Elective Oral Health Procedures." It should be posted soon on the State's Covid-19 information page.
<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/CBPLCOVID-19Information.aspx>.
- The original mandate 006 restricted routine dental care and allowed for emergency treatment only until April 19th, 2020. The amended version removes the date and now remains in effect "until rescinded". The Dental Board met on April 8th and shared concerns that on April 7th dentistry had suddenly been included into the amended Health Mandate 005, "Elective Medical Procedures." It would have effectively required dentists to remain under orders to provide emergency only service until June 15, 2020. Without much current local data, the Board felt being included in mandate 005 or placing a random end date to mandate 006 would not be advised. The Board suggested that the amended version of mandate 006 have an "until further notice" end date. The fact that the Governor, Commissioner Crum and Dr. Anne Zink decided to give mandate 006 an "until rescinded" end date may be a good sign. It shows the Department of Health is willing to work with the Board and others to determine how to best move forward. The Dental Board plans to hold weekly meetings to provide recommendations to the Department of Health and Social Services.
- Due to a nationwide shortage of available hands-on coursework opportunities to complete Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) training, the American Heart Association (AHA) will extend the expiration date of cards expiring beginning in March of 2020 by 120 days.
- The Dental Board will continue to monitor the need for changes to the number of documented moderate, deep or general anesthesia sedation cases required during the current biannual renewal period under 12 ACC 28.010(e) and 12 ACC 28.015(h).
- For the current licensing period, there are no planned adjustments to the number of CE hours required for the renewal of any license, permit or certificate. Online CE is permitted as usual, with a limit of 8 hours of CE logged per any 24 hour period.

- The Board is actively working on solutions for new dental school graduates trying to become licensed in Alaska. With all regional clinical exams on hold, there has essentially been a hold put on the application process as well. We will instruct Professional Background Information Services (PBIS) in Phoenix to collect all the necessary documents as usual while we wait for exam results to come in.
- The Board's investigator has received complaints that some dental offices around the state are practicing business as usual and performing routine dental procedures in violation of the Governor's mandate 006. These complaints may be followed up on and investigated by the Dental Board, other Alaska State Agencies or the Federal Government. The Board's investigator is in meetings discussing the best way to handle these complaints. The Board's advice is to comply with the Governor's mandate 006 and other information posted on the Covid-19 website. <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/CBPLCOVID-19Information.aspx>.
- It is not advisable to leave a message on an office recorder that refers patients of record to the emergency room, particularly during this crisis. It is also not advisable to close your practice to patients of record without leaving a message providing contact information for the dentist or dental office you have coordinated care with. If you have decided to close your practice during this time, it is advisable to find another office to care for your patients in case of emergency and make that information available to them. Also, please consider donating or otherwise make available PPE for the office you refer to.
- The Board is working on a policy statement that endorses the utilization of tele-dentistry as a viable treatment modality for improving access to care to all Alaskans. This endorsement is in line with recommendations from the CDC, ADA and ADS. Tele-dentistry is not currently under separate regulation in the State of Alaska, and the Board is willing to create regulations for tele-dentistry should it be deemed necessary. If you would like more information about [telemedicine](#) please see the following website:
<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/TelemedicineBusinessRegistry.aspx>

The Board of Dental Examiners will be holding a weekly COVID-19 teleconference on Wednesdays, beginning April 15th at 1:30 p.m.

Please email BoardOfDentalExaminers@Alaska.Gov for more information.