



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency

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COVID-19 Guidance for Dental Providers and Dental Clinics

COVID-19 is now established in Santa Cruz County and will soon be widespread. All precautions should be applied to all patients, providers, and staff. The Santa Cruz Public Health Department recommends the following guidelines for dentists and dental clinics to help mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Santa Cruz County dentists should continue with treatment only for urgent or emergency situations:

- Patient is in pain.
- Infection is present.
- Nontreatment will severely inhibit normal operation of a patient's teeth and mouth or negatively impact their health in the next three to six months.
- Patients who have received recent treatment requiring the removal of sutures.

All other treatments should be delayed until the COVID-19 crisis has eased.

We strongly recommend you read the guidance and information from the California Dental Association (CDA) at this link: <https://www.cda.org/Home/News-and-Events/COVID-19-coronavirus-Updates>

This link addresses these topics and more:

What protocols should be used when we treat patients requiring urgent care?

How can you reduce the production of aerosols during dental treatment?

Economic and employment questions regarding your practice.

For additional information on environmental cleaning and disinfection recommendations, see this link: <https://www.cda.org/Home/News-and-Events/COVID-19-coronavirus-Updates>

For more information about local response efforts towards COVID-19, refer to the County's website: www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus

Testing should be reserved for patients showing symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, difficulty breathing).

Please continue to monitor the County website, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website, and CDA website for the most up-to-date guidance and information on COVID-19. Thank you for your cooperation.