



Public Health Division

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 Emeline Ave., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962
TELEPHONE: (831) 454-4000 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD: Call 711

Press Release

For Release: Immediately

Date: May 5, 2020

Contact: Corinne Hyland, PIO

Phone: (831) 566-4370

COUNTY GUIDANCE ON DENTAL SERVICES

Santa Cruz County, Calif. – Santa Cruz County Health Officer Dr. Gail Newel is advising local health care providers, including dentists and dental hygienists, to follow State guidelines on safe operations and services.

On May 1st, the County Health Officer issued a revised Shelter-In-Place Order that defers to State directives on healthcare, which includes dental services. While Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the opening of healthcare non-emergent services, subsequent written guidelines did not include dental services. The Santa Cruz County Public Health Division is awaiting further instructions and guidelines for dental care from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), which is expected to be released shortly.

Until guidelines are established, only urgent and emergent dental services should be provided.

“I am relying on our healthcare system colleagues, including dentists, to utilize their best clinical judgement in interpreting the State directives and guidance as they reopen their offices. It is important that social distancing requirements and protocols are followed. Dental cleanings should not happen at this time, even if adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available,” said Dr. Newel.

The Public Health Division understands the importance of reopening dental clinics from both patient care and economic perspectives. However, this need must be balanced with the need to protect the population at large.

Please view these resources for more information:

OSHA Information on Dentistry Workers and Employers: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/dentistry.html>

California Dental Association: www.cda.org

California Dental Hygienists' Association: www.cdha.org

American Dental Association: www.ada.org/en



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Santa Cruz County