

## **March 22, 2020 - SPECIAL UPDATE: NDDA Board of Trustees and District Presidents will Lead COVID-19 Response**

**Starting Monday morning March 23, 2020, all advocacy, messaging, decisions and actions will flow through your NDDA Board of Trustees and District Presidents.** To date, all advocacy, messaging, decisions and actions have been driven through the NDDA Central Office in an effort to timely respond to this chaotic situation. While many of us are still trying to gather our bearings in this “new norm” it is imperative that dentistry be involved in the discussions surrounding the health and safety as well as the business and regulatory relief response to this unprecedented public health crisis.

### **The NDDA Board of Trustees are forming action leadership teams to deal with:**

- 1. Health and Safety**
- 2. Advocacy(Business and Regulatory Relief)**
- 3. Business Questions(Insurance, Finances, Human resources, etc.).**

In order to best direct and support your comments, questions and concerns; please connect with your local trustee, district president or the action team leader in the subject area you need support.

All Board of Trustee information can be found at [NDDA Board of Trustees](#).

All District President information can be found at [NDDA District Presidents](#).

Dr. Brad Anderson, NDDA President, will lead this response, the action teams, and any and all advocacy, messaging, decisions and actions regarding COVID-19. We all know and understand the serious potential ramifications and impacts for the practice of dentistry not only today, but into the distant future. This rapidly changing and evolving situation is full of unknowns and the NDDA must stay engaged at every point in the information, education and negotiation process. We are in uncharted waters and while health and safety always are and always will be our number one priority, we must be sure to engage on all fronts in the political and regulatory space to protect the practice of our profession.

There is no better voice to communicate this practice and the profession than one of a dentist. That is why it is vital to elicit engagement from our NDDA leadership across all avenues to ensure the practice and profession that not only supports our families, the families of our staff and the profession that protects and cares for the oral health of citizens across our state is maintained for generations into the future. NDDA leadership will maintain daily communication with all state agencies, political leaders and regulatory bodies as we navigate this crisis. Further, they will keep you informed on all updates from national, state, local and all other government/regulatory agencies. **Please, be on the lookout for daily updates from your president, action team leaders, and district presidents.**

As dentists, employers, business owners, public health professionals and most importantly family members; I cannot begin to fathom the amount of stress or scenarios that are working through you minds during this incomprehensible time. I know the feeling can be crippling and paralyzing in the moment, but you need to try to do your best to stop, think and make the best decisions in front of you. I do not say those words lightly, but also would stress to you that you can't change the world behind you, but you can think, prepare and act within this new crisis environment we are all operating. You are intelligent, highly educated leaders in your communities and your state. As a profession, you are in uncharted waters and more than ever you need to stick together, work together, and do your best to provide a unified front in the best interest of the public and your profession. I would implore you to look at this crisis from a macro level versus the micro

level and from a holistic perspective versus an individualistic perspective. This phenomenon is unlike anything your profession has ever faced and it will take all of you working together to succeed through it. Other than the health and safety of everyone in your profession, which should always be paramount at every moment in time, you need to “look outside of the next six hours in time” or “the specifics of a certain circumstance relative to provider X.” This public health crisis, and the government’s response, are literally changing hourly and daily. You need to be engaged at every decision point along that timeline to ensure dentistry has a voice as they are rewriting the rules around this pandemic. This event is larger than all of us as individuals and only by working as a collective through the NDDA can you hopefully protect the practice of your profession that you all cherish.