

District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

August 2020, Vol. 66, No. 8



Dr. Ladan Basiri

Letter from the DC Dental Society President Ladan Basiri, MA, DMD

Dear Colleagues,

I want to wholeheartedly thank you for your ongoing support of your society and for being active members during these challenging times.

Although I am disappointed that I have not been able to meet you in person, I hope you have had a chance to watch my introductory video in our July newsletter. I remain hopeful that I will get to meet many of you soon and await the opportunity to do so!

As the SARS-CoV-2 virus continues to evolve and spread, the DCDS and ADA are keeping you up to date with the latest developments and updates on scientific findings and local and national agency regulations. Through all the turbulence of the pandemic, I am very proud to be a part of our dental society and organized dentistry. DC Dental Society has worked tirelessly to consistently update our members with the barrage of new information coming from all directions and advocate for our profession with a strong and effective voice to our local and national governments. Indeed, as soon as we realized the severity of this pandemic, we stepped up our efforts – alongside the ADA, CDC, OSHA, FDA and OSAP – to keep up with the inflow of new information and developments to keep our members updated, informed, and safe (please see the DCDS timeline on the sidebar on the following pages).

To everyone’s dismay, summer did not create any relief from this unpredictable novel virus, and infections have been on the rise with slower progress on the testing and vaccine front. Dentists are historically well-accustomed to being at the forefront of infection control and universal precautions and have admirably been quite successful in implementing safety measures to lower the risk of transmission. DCDS has been advocating for its members, and in collaboration with the DC Board of Dentistry and governmental agencies, to have FEMA mail PPE kits to every dentist in DC (the ADA also sent KN95 masks to dentists that applied for them). We are aware of the ongoing shortages of PPE in DC, and are trying to help

(Continued on Page 3)

A Look Inside...

- Letter Form The President.....1
- Welcome New Members.....2
- DCDS Virtual Happy Hour.....2
- DCDS Sends Joint Letter Opposing
New CE Requirements2
- 2020-2021 Continuing Education
Program5
- Covid-19 Webinar Recordings.....6
- COVID-19 Resources.....7
- Classifieds.....15

Reach Us

DCDS Business Office
2025 M Street NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036

P: (202) 367-1163
F: (202) 365-2163
E: info@dcdental.org

DCDS Vision

We are DCDS: passionate about our profession, our community, and our future!



Welcome New Member

Dr. Theresa S. Gonzales has served as the Executive Director of American College of Dentists since 2017. Dr. Gonzales began her military career at Fort Jackson, SC, as a resident in the Advanced Education in General Dentistry program. She completed a residency training program in oral and maxillofacial pathology in 1992 at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. In 2006, she completed a fellowship in Orofacial Pain at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School and completed an M.S. in Health Care from The George Washington University in Washington, DC.



Join us for the next DCDS Virtual Happy Hour!

It has been a while since we all had a chance to connect. Please join us for a virtual happy hour and network with your fellow dentists on Tuesday, August 25 at 6 p.m. It's important for all of us to stay together and keep the lines of communication open in these rapidly changing times.

If you are interested in attending, [please follow this link to register](#).

We hope to see you soon,

DCDS Staff



DCDS Sends Joint Letter to DC Council Opposing New Mandatory Continuing Education Requirements

DCDS joined with the Medical Society of DC to voice opposition to legislation before the DC Council to establish 2 credits of mandated CE/CME for licensed health professionals on the subject of suicide risk assessment, treatment, and management to provide comprehensive care for at-risk patients. [The Suicide Prevention Continuing Education Amendment Act of 2019](#) (B23-543) was scheduled for a hearing before the DC Council Committee on Health on July 29.

The DCDS-MSDC letter reads, "Our organizations do not oppose suicide prevention efforts or suicide awareness education. We recognize the potential for physicians and dentists to play a role in identifying potentially at-risk patients...What our organizations do oppose is mandated, content-specific continuing medical education (CME and CE) for healthcare providers."

DCDS will monitor the status of the proposed legislation and will continue to work with MSDC to advocate on behalf of DC dentists in opposition to this new mandate.

[Read DCDS-MSDC letter here.](#)

members acquire PPE. In this week's ADA Power of Three webinars and the biweekly report by HPI, there was increased hope that supply will be able to meet demand by the fall.

Another piece of positive news is the strong advocacy on the Capitol Hill by ADA, ADPAC, and other state associations, producing favorable results for the financial health of dental practices. The latest development on this front was the HHS Provider Relief Fund for dentists. Our members also have access to members-only products, such as two updated toolkits, many useful webinars on Covid-19, links to valuable external resources, and much more.

Looking forward, we have started implementing our plan for the upcoming year to best position our society for the post-COVID world by structurally preparing it to function digitally in perpetuity. Our goal is to make the society more digital-friendly by increasing virtual programming and creating a digital community that fosters learning and networking for our members – all while maintaining our high quality of service to our membership base.

In our pursuit of these goals, we will increase our social media presence, update our website, and provide live webinars and online symposiums with programs that are relevant to the new struggles that dentists are facing today: One example of such a program was the webinar we had on July 23 by Dr. Roger Levin entitled, "10 Powerful Strategies to Increase Production in the Covid-19 Era." DCDS will also continue to provide a steady stream of communication to members that includes DC-specific information, supplementing information provided by the ADA. We will also continue our collaboration with ADA, ADPAC and the DCDS foundation. The DCDS Foundation provides oral health care and promotes oral health literacy throughout the DC community. I would like to include an excerpt here of a recent message from Dr. Sally Cram, President of the [DCDS Foundation](#):

"The need for dental care for those residents in our DC community with financial limitations continues to exceed the capacity of the local clinics that serve them. The pandemic has unfortunately increased this problem. The Foundation plans to launch the "DC Dental Cares Pilot Project" in collaboration with the Catholic Community Healthcare Network over the coming year. This program

COVID-19 DCDS/ADA Timeline

Throughout the pandemic DCDS provided a steady stream of communication to members to provide DC-specific information and aligned messaging to amplify or supplement information provided by the ADA.

March 11 - World Health Organization declares COVID-19 a pandemic

March 16 - DCDS Board holds emergency meeting to assess the state of the pandemic

March 18 - Board of Dentistry cancels monthly public meeting

March 19 - DCDS switches to remote operation

March 26 - DCDS hosts COVID-19 webinar: Crisis Management for Dentists Cash Flow, Credit and Other Resources

April 1 - DC stay at home order takes effect

April 7 - DCDS hosts COVID-19 webinar: Critical Business Decisions in the Era of COVID-19: Employees and Insurance

April 13 - DCDS submits comments to DC Department of Health on proposed anesthesia regulation with Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

April 15 - Board of Dentistry resumes public meetings. DCDS attends to observe board activity and to provide comments on the state of the dental profession in DC

April 16 - ADA sends letters to Congress requesting "flexibility for EIDL/PPP loans" and allowing dental societies to receive COVID-19 assistance (eligibility for 501(c)(6) organizations)

April 17 - ADA sends letter to HHS Secretary requesting relief Medicaid Relief Payments to dentists

May 1 - DCDS issues warning about counterfeit PPE

May 4 - ADA announces to state societies that FEMA elevated dentists as a priority recipient for PPE. ADA provides guidance on request to state emergency management agencies for PPE.

Continued on Page 4

will help to connect dentists with patients who need dental treatment but cannot afford it. Please watch your email and newsletter for updates and information on how you can participate. The Foundation is also continuing to work in the community to increase access to dental care for our elderly citizens by providing lectures for nursing homes on the importance of oral health and proper oral hygiene.”

We are grateful to Dr. Cram’s service, initiative, and leadership and hope that all our members support the DCDS foundation and its efforts to serve the community and provide opportunities for DMV dentists to change lives.

Finally, I want to thank all the volunteers who have stepped up to join our society’s committees, which are extremely important and vital to increasing the value of your membership and advancing our collective vision. Through the second half of this year, with the leadership of our committees, we hope to update and implement our strategic plan, revise our bylaws, increase membership, and collaborate with other local dental societies in an effort to increase our community outreach throughout the coming year.

Oral health is part of total health, and dentistry is on the front lines of today’s changing public health landscape. In a time of uncertainty and change we must remain positive and active within our professional community. As stated is our vision statement, developed by 2015 DCDS President Dr. Paula Russo, “We are DCDS: passionate about our profession, our community, and our future!”

Aligning with the theme of our virtual ADA 2020 Annual Meeting in October, I hope to bring our members together while we are apart and to meet everyone in person very soon. Until then, I wish you good health and strength.

Sincerely,

Ladan

Ladan Basiri, MA, DMD
FACD, FICD
DC Dental Society President

COVID-19 DCDS/ADA Timeline Continued

May 4 - DCDS Board of Directors meets and discusses additional options for supporting membership

May 6 - DCDS surveys members on PPE stocks

May 6 - ADA sends letter to CDC request guidance on how to protect dental patients and staff from infection during the deceleration phase of the COVID-19 pandemic (i.e., return to work).

May 8 - DCDS submits request for PPE to Mayor Bowser and DC Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency Director Chris Rodriguez

May 12 - DCDS hosts May monthly meeting as virtual event

May 18 - DCDS meets with Board of Dentistry to request assistance in securing PPE

May 18 - DCDS hosts Virtual Candidates Forum to meet DCDS officer and board candidates and first annual election by electronic ballot

May 20 - ADA sends letter (DCDS co-signs) of thanks to Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) for his proposals on a dental-specific Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for Medicaid, which could be used to cover the costs of dental services for children and adults.

May 20 - Board of Dentistry Meeting – DCDS provides input on waiving limit on the number of CE hours that can be earned through online education

May 21 - ADA announces that CDC updated guidance for dentistry as requested in letter to agency

May 27 - DCDS President and Executive Director interview with ABC7 WJLA on urgent need for PPE among DC dentists

Continued on Page 15

Mark Your Calendar: 2020-2021 Continuing Education Program

The 2020-2021 Continuing Education Program kicks off on September 8 with Dr. Seena Patel's presentation titled: "Non-Odontogenic Sources of Tooth Pain: Demystifying the Mystery of Phantom Tooth Pain."

Eight meetings are scheduled for the 2020-2021 term providing up to 20.5 hours of CE (16.5 clinical hours of CE). CE activities occur the second Tuesday of the month unless noted otherwise.

Monthly meetings are included with DCDS membership. As space is limited, members are encouraged to register as early as possible.

Date	Topic	Format	Speaker	Location	
Sept. 8, 2020 5:45 p.m.*	Pain Management	Webinar (2.5 CE)	Dr. Seena Patel	Online	REGISTER
Oct. 13, 2020 5:45 p.m.*	Oral Pathology	Webinar (2.5 CE)	Dr. Kitrina Cordell	Online	REGISTER
Nov. 10, 2020 5:45 p.m.*	Biomimetic Dentistry	Webinar (1.5 CE)	Dr. Matthew Nejad	Online	REGISTER
Dec. 8, 2020 5:45 p.m.*	Oral Appliance Therapy, Sleep Apnea	Webinar (2.5 CE)	Dr. Subha Giri	Online	REGISTER
Jan. 12, 2021 5:45 p.m.*	Occlusion, Bite Splints, New Patient Examination	Webinar (2.5 CE)	Dr. Mark Kleive	Online	REGISTER
Feb. Dates TBA*	Risk Management and Malpractice Avoidance	Webinar (4.0 CE)	Dr. John Murphy	Online	REGISTER
Mar. 9, 2021 5:45 p.m.*	Implant Topic	Webinar (2.5 CE)	Dr. Lee Ann Brady	Online	REGISTER
May 17, 2021 5:45 p.m.*	Current Materials	In-person (2.5 CE)	Dr. Nate Lawson	TBA	REGISTER

* Monthly business meeting begins at 5:45 p.m. Educational session begins at 6:00 p.m.

Missed Our Summer Webinars? Recordings Available

The DC Dental Society is committed to providing our members with the support you need to get through these challenging times. As many of you are aware, the DC Board of Dentistry does not accept practice management topics toward CE requirements for license renewal, although they may satisfy educational requirements for other programs. Nevertheless, we believe it is important to guide our members through the challenges posed by the pandemic. We will continue to offer webinars related to practice management that will support your business. These webinars will be available to all members at no additional charge. CE certificates will be awarded for completion, but they are not eligible toward DC licensure renewal. Recordings of these two webinars are [available on the DCDS Website](#):

July CE Event: 10 Powerful Strategies to Increase Production in the COVID-19 Era (Webinar)

Course Description: COVID-19 has changed dentistry forever. Moving forward, it will not be business-as-usual. New strategies, systems and behaviors will be essential for practices to increase production and maintain success. After any crisis there are businesses that are highly successful and others that struggle. The difference will be how well you understand and implement the high-value strategies what will increase production, revenue, cash and income.

This presentation will focus on the 10 strategies that every dental practice can and must utilize to reinvent their practice management foundation, understand the pathway to recovery, attract new patients and manage all of this with a whole new set of rules and regulations. Dentists and their teams will need to rethink every aspect of the practice to be fully successful in a post-COVID-19 world.



Roger P. Levin, DDS

Learning objectives

1. Learn the 10 leading-edge strategies developed by Levin Group that will immediately improve practice performance, production and the rate of post-COVID-19 recovery.
2. Understand how systems and scripting such as scheduling, hygiene productivity, case presentation, insurance, customer service and other key practice production factors need to change.
3. Identify the leadership qualities that virtually guarantee success under any economic condition.

August CE Event: New Financial Fundamentals for Dentists Post-COVID-19 (Webinar)

Course Description: COVID-19 realigned the financial fundamentals for dentists. For example, the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and other COVID-19 assistance programs provided a financial lifeline for dentists and many others. Those same programs come with specific rules and requirements.

Join us on Wednesday, August 5 at 6 p.m. to learn more about the new financial benchmarks for dentists due to COVID-19 and next steps for those dentists who received funding from COVID-19 federal assistance programs.



Amr Alian, CPA, MBA, CVA

Learning Objectives

1. Understand the importance of cash flow and key cash flow evaluation metrics
2. Understand the tax consequences of the different types of COVID-19 assistance loans and grants.
3. Learn steps a dental practice should take to prepare for another possible shutdown.

Webinar From DC Dental Hygienist' Association: "Addressing PPE Concerns Respiratory Mask Fit Testing COVID-19 Infection Control 2 CE"



District of Columbia
Dental Hygienists' Association

August 15, 2020 11 AM—1:30 PM EDT
\$30

[Click this link to Register](#)

This course will familiarize the participant with various types of respirators and fit testing.

FROM THE ADA

Now available: Updated Return to Work Interim Guidance Toolkit & Protocols for COVID Positive Staff

The ADA Return to Work Interim Guidance Toolkit has been updated to include:

- Updated timeline guidance for patients reporting COVID-19 symptoms after an appointment.
- New guidance on protecting staff with consideration for private staff areas of the office.
- Flowchart and guidance for handling a positive COVID-19 test on staff or in a staff member's household (ADA member exclusive)
- Guidance on paying staff on leave due to COVID-19 (ADA member exclusive)
- The Patient Return Resource Center is stocked with patient communication tools to help your patients feel confident returning for routine care. (ADA member exclusive)

The Patient Return Resource Center complements the ADA Return to Work Interim Guidance Toolkit with useful tools to educate patients on what to expect before, during and after their appointment as you and your staff implement the enhanced safety protocols in the toolkit.

These tools include:

- A downloadable visual guide
- Customizable social media posts
- Email and text message templates
- In-office signage

[Learn More or Download the Toolkit](#)

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Recovery Patterns Changing as COVID-19 Cases Increase in Certain Regions?

The [newest poll data](#) from HPI's ongoing COVID-19 Economic Impact polling show 98% of dental offices in the U.S. were open the week of July 13, with patient volume estimated to be 71% of pre-COVID-19 levels and staffing at 90% of pre-COVID-19 levels. The poll found little correlation between patient volume and the number of new COVID-19 cases among the population, even in states like Texas, Florida and California that are experiencing increases in COVID-19 cases.

This data represents the ninth wave of polling HPI has conducted since March 2020 to better understand COVID-19's economic impact on dental practices in the U.S. HPI Chief Economist Dr. Marko Vujicic discussed the new poll results during a webinar recorded on July 21, which is available to watch now.

[Watch webinar here](#). Topics covered in webinar include:

- The latest data from the biweekly poll's core questions, including patient and collection volumes.
- PPE availability at dental practices.
- Staffing levels in dental offices.
- A closer look at how COVID-19 is impacting dental patient volumes in states experiencing increased COVID-19 cases.
- How many practices are using teledentistry.
- The newest data on how consumers feel about going back to the dentist.

HHS Extends Provider Relief Fund Deadline To Aug. 28

The [ADA News](#) (8/1, Garvin) reported that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said Friday that it is extending the deadline to Aug. 28 for all dentists to apply for funding through the Enhanced Provider Relief Fund Payment Portal.

The article noted the Association had called for HHS to extend the deadline for applications.

HHS also said beginning Aug. 10 and continuing through Aug. 28, dentists who previously received a small amount of Medicare funding and dentists who recently bought practices will be eligible to apply for funding.

The article also notes that the ADA has created a [new FAQ](#) on popular dental questions regarding the Provider Relief Fund Portal.

The Provider Relief Fund was established by the CARES Act – which directed \$175 billion in relief funds to hospitals and other health care providers, particularly those impacted by COVID-19. The portal allows dental providers to apply for payments made for health care-related expenses or lost revenue attributable to the pandemic.

[Read the ADA FAQ](#).

[Apply to the Enhanced Provider Relief Fund Payment Portal](#)

FDA Reiterates Warning About Dangerous Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizers Containing Methanol

Agency Urges Consumers, Health Care Professionals Not to Use Certain Products, Citing Serious Adverse Events and Death

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration continues to warn consumers and health care professionals not to use [certain](#) alcohol-based hand sanitizers due to the dangerous presence of methanol, or wood alcohol – a substance often used to create fuel and antifreeze that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin as well as life-threatening when ingested. The agency has also taken additional action to help prevent certain hand sanitizers from entering the United States by placing them on an [import alert](#).

When identifying hand sanitizers from the FDA’s do-not-use list, consumers should look for one or more identifiers from the list that match the product’s labeling, including:

- Manufacturer name
- Product name
- National Drug Code (NDC) number

If any of the identifiers (name, company, or NDC) match a product on the list, the FDA urges consumers to immediately stop using the hand sanitizer. Dispose of the hand sanitizer bottle in a hazardous waste container, if available, or dispose of as recommended by local waste management and recycling centers. Do not flush or pour these products down the drain or mix with other liquids.

[View FDA Do Not Use List.](#)

Rectangle Health Provides a Electronic Post COVID-19 Analysis Pamphlet Free Of Charge To DCDS Members

How to Restore Dental Operations Safely and Effectively by Mike Peluso, CTO Rectangle Health

Few things change the world like a pandemic. COVID-19 had dramatically altered the way we live, work and socialize since its appearance on the global stage in early 2020, shutting down countries, businesses and industries. The healthcare industry, in particular, has been significantly affected, requiring vast modifications to existing business and operational models to reduce unnecessary contact at every point of care coupled with heightened patient exactions for safety and efficiency.

[Lean More Here](#)

DCDS President-Elect Dr. Pierre Cartier Inducted as American College of Dentists Fellow

DCDS President-Elect Dr. Pierre Cartier, DMD, MPH was recently inducted as a fellow of the American College of Dentists. ACD fellows are chosen for leadership, model ethics, and service to the profession and to society, our members are thoughtfully selected through a thorough vetting process. ACD Fellows make up a small percentage of all dental professionals in the United States. ACD Fellows work at the local level with their Sections to bring the ethos of the College to their communities, write on matters of interest for the *Journal of the American College of Dentists*, speak on ethics and leadership panels, and continue to be models and mentors for others in the profession. [Read more from the ACD.](#)

Dr. Jean Edouard Asmar Recognized with Gerald A. Devlin Award

The Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists will announce in the Autumn 2020 issue of MASO Journal that DCDS member Dr. Jean Edouard Asmar is recognized as the 2020 winner of the Gerald A. Devlin Award. This award is given by MASO to a candidate who demonstrates at least one of the following criteria:

1. Significant service or contribution to MASO beyond his/his membership or other official capacity
2. Significant contribution to the orthodontic or dental health of children or adults
3. Notable study in research that adds to current knowledge and etiology
4. Significant contribution to other areas of dentistry or science

Dr. Asmar will be recognized at the 2021 MASO Annual Session held in Puerto Rico. [Read more from MASO.](#)

ADHA Recognizes Two Local Dental Hygienists with Awards

The American Dental Hygienists' Association recently recognized two members of the DC dental community with awards. DC Dental Hygienists' Association President Han-Na Jang, RDH, MSDH was recognized with Esther Wilkins Future Leader Award and QuinTess Bond was recognized the Hygienist Proud Award. [Read more on the ADHA website.](#)

Robert T. Freeman Dental Society is Conducting a Survey on Medicaid

The Robert T. Freeman Dental Society is conducting a survey among dentists who participate in DC Medicaid plans. Interested dentists may participate in the brief survey via the [online survey form.](#)



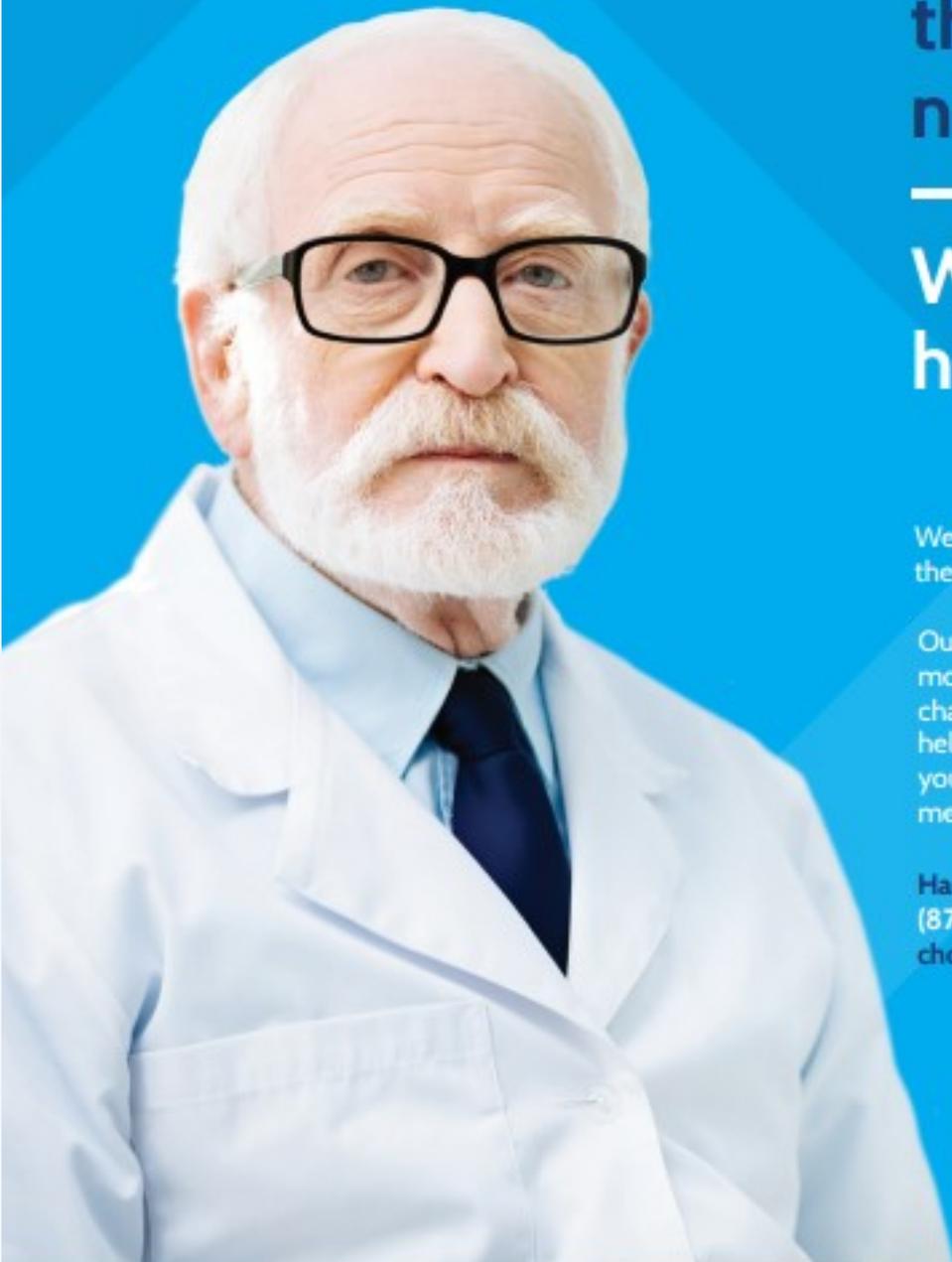
“What’s
the new
normal?”

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help.

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FROM THE ADA

Patient Return Resource Center for Members

As doctors of oral health, your patients' health has always been top priority. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, your patients are looking at their own well-being differently – and may have questions when resuming their dental visits.

This Patient Return Resource Center contains member resources to support you and your dental team in communicating with your patients about how you are putting their health and safety first in a world full of “new normals.” All materials are based on the American Dental Association's (ADA's) Return to Work Interim Guidance Toolkit developed by the ADA Advisory Task Force on Dental Practice Recovery.

Toolkit: What to Expect At Your Next Dental Visit

Dental visits are different now that COVID-19 is a reality. This downloadable suite of communication tools will help educate your patients about what they will experience when returning for non-emergent care. If desired, these materials also allow for customization throughout so you can adapt these resources to your practice and patients.

[Visit the Patient Return Resource Center](#)



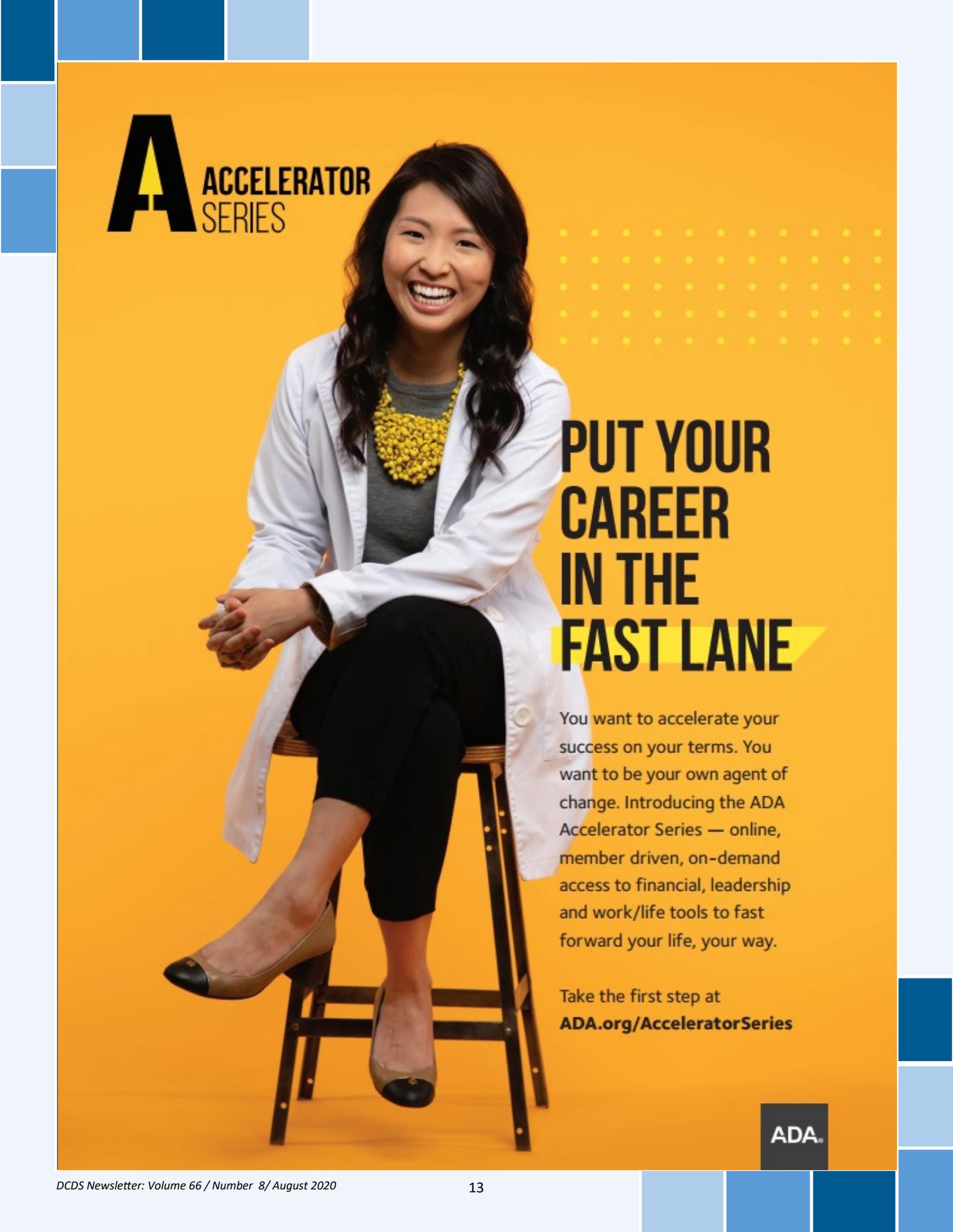
Tips for Handling Mask Non-Compliance

What should I do if someone, such as a patient, their companion or a vendor, entering the practice refuses to wear a face mask for a reason other than disability?

While the law in this area may be unclear and in flux, these suggestions may help you and your staff mitigate the potential safety and legal risks that can present when an individual refuses to wear a suitable face covering in nontreatment areas of the dental office:

1. Make certain that the practice has a policy regarding the wearing of face coverings and that all patients and potential visitors have been notified of the policy requiring face coverings in advance of their visit.
2. When appropriate, let patients and other visitors know that the policy is based on current scientific information and recommendations from such agencies as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Dental Association (ADA) and other credible sources.
3. Remind patients of the policy when they make their appointments and when the practice confirms appointments.

[Read Tips for Handling Mask Non-Compliance](#)



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Contact: Dr. Raoufinia | 703-946-1077
| rjraouf@gmail.com

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Contact: Dr. Samira Shenasi | 703-261-3649 | brr168@gmail.com

DC Practice for Sale

Description: DC Dental Practice for sale. 25 years in NW DC. Profitable practice. Diversified payer mix. Trained staff. Over 1,500 active patients. First floor location. Owner is retiring.

Contact: Ulric Donawa | 301-502-1375
| Ulric@allenbusinessadvisors.com

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COVID-19 DCDS/ADA Timeline Continued

May 29 - DC Phase 1 of reopening begins

June 2 - DCDS annual election closes. DCDS hosts special virtual meeting to announce elect results and install new officers/board members

June 4 - PPE Starter Kits begin to arrive at DC dental offices from DC Department of Health

June 9 - DCDS conducts survey of members to assess level of distribution of PPE Starter Kits

June 9 - DCDS issues statement on Racial Violence and Health Disparities with DC Dental Hygienists' Association

June 11 - ADA sends letter to U.S. Senate leaders (DCDS co-signs) supports temporarily increasing the federal share of Medicaid costs if used to support state Medicaid programs with adult and child dental services (federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP)), while also keeping in place maintenance of effort (MOE) protections

June 17 - Board of Dentistry Meeting

June 22 - DC Phase 2 of Reopening begins

June 26 - DCDS conducts survey on status of business operations

July 23 - DCDS hosts COVID-19 webinar: 10 Powerful Strategies to Increase Production in the COVID-19 Era

July 15 - DCDS submits letter to DC Health and Board of Dentistry requesting support for the ability of dentists to administer COVID-19 tests and the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available

July 15 - Board of Dentistry Meeting

July 20 - DCDS joins coalition of DC health organizations to provide the public with guidance on returning to physicians, dentists and other health professionals

July 29 - DCDS joins with Medical Society of DC to issue comments opposing mandatory CMEs/CEs on suicide prevention