May 28, 2020

Dear Dental Community Member,

Thank you for your inquiries regarding Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and its importance in the protection against the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the current COVID-19 pandemic as it specifically relates to the practice of dentistry. The District of Columbia realizes the important role that the dental community plays with respect to providing dental services that deliver desirable outcomes to an individual’s overall health status. The District of Columbia’s Department of Health (DC Health) also appreciates the close proximity between patient and provider which exists as it relates to performing dental procedures and thereby, the inherent increase in risk specific to COVID-19 transmission.

As the District prepares for the reopening of businesses and the end of the Stay at Home Order and Closure of Non-Essential Business, it is vitally important that PPE be utilized in the medical setting. In an effort to support the complete medical community in the District of Columbia, DC Health has partnered with the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) to provide licensed medical personnel with a “PPE Starter Kit”.

The PPE Starter Kit will contain several items to include N95 or equivalent masks, surgical masks and face shields. The kit will serve as an initial and basic source of PPE as providers secure long-term supplies for each of their professional services. Once the assembly of kits are completed and made available, they will be mailed to your respective practice locations.

On behalf of the District of Columbia, we wish you and the entire dental community good health and safety. The District fully respects the value that the dental community brings to public health and looks forward to the offering of dental services within the District, once deemed to be safe and at lower risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Respectfully,

Sharon Lewis

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