

GDA Advisory Regarding Governor Kemp's April 23, 2020 Executive Order

April 24, 2020

Dear Valued Member of the GDA and all Georgia Dentists,

We are very pleased to report that as a result of your GDA's advocacy efforts, last night Gov. Kemp issued a new Executive Order entitled, [Providing Guidance for Reviving a Healthy Georgia in Response to COVID-19](#) (the "Order"). Included with his Order is a clarification statement specifically requested by the GDA in its April 21st Petition to the Governor.

Through his April 23rd Order, Gov. Kemp temporarily suspended the requirements of his April 20th Executive Order and will now allow Georgia licensed dental practices and clinics to provide the "full scope of their services" as long as they adhere to the American Dental Association's ("ADA") [Interim Guidance for Minimizing Risk for COVID-19 Transmission](#) and the ADA's [Interim Mask and Face Shield Guidelines](#). (See [April 23rd Order](#), page 18). The Order goes into effect on **May 1, 2020 at 12 AM** until **May 13, 2020 at 11:59 PM**.

For more details about other guidelines set forth in the Order for dentists as Critical Infrastructure, please view the [GDA's FAQ on Gov. Kemp's April 23rd Executive Order](#).

Moreover, Gov. Kemp's emergency powers, as delineated in O.C.G.A. § 38-3-51(d)(1), are broad in nature and as such, his April 23rd Order would also appear to supersede the [April 22nd statement issued by the Georgia Board of Dentistry](#).

The GDA is not a government body or state regulatory agency. Accordingly, GDA serves as your resource for all available clinical and professional guidance/recommendations relating to dentistry and the COVID-19 pandemic. Mandates must come from the federal and/or state government, not the GDA.

The **decision** to return to your practices for full treatment must be made on an **individual basis** based on your professional judgment after due consideration of all current clinical recommendations/guidelines, workplace safety recommendations/guidelines, your personal circumstances, as well as those of your practices, patients and staff.

However, the GDA's Board of Trustees strongly urges that all Georgia dentists who wish to return to full practice should review the following science-based resources and use their best efforts to implement them as this situation continues to evolve:

- [ADA's Interim Guidance for Minimizing Risk for COVID-19 Transmission](#) (REQUIRED)
- [ADA's Interim Mask and Face Shield Guidelines](#) (REQUIRED)
- [CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response](#)
- [CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Healthcare Settings](#)

- [OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)
- [CDC Strategies to Optimize the Supply of PPE and Equipment](#)
- [ADA Statement on Understanding Mask Types](#)
- [ADA Statement on Third-Party Reimbursement for PPE](#)

On Monday, the ADA will be releasing a “Return to Work” toolkit for our members to assist with their transition back to full practice, so please be sure to look for that announcement from the GDA.

We urge you during this time of unprecedented uncertainty, to move toward full treatment on your preparedness timeline with caution. Let’s continue to be a state with zero dental office related COVID-19 cases. We are not perfect, but can assure you that we are doing our very best to bring you informed guidance and that we are all working together to ensure that we remain GDA STRONG!!

Best Regards,



Dr. Evis Babo,
President



Frank J. Capaldo,
Executive Director/CEO

The GDA Board of Trustees