



GOVERNMENT OF
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR DENTAL PRACTITIONERS

Dental offices perform many procedures that create aerosols causing potential high exposure of airborne pathogens to dental staff, the COVID-19 virus being one of them. Due to the high risk of transmission while operating dental handpieces, air/water syringes and ultrasonic scalers, it is important that there be limited use at this time. In keeping staff safe, if requested, dental facilities must validate to the Regulatory Division of the Department of Health and the VI Board of Dental Examiners, the availability of required personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff, and demonstrate that the office has renovated and/or installed approved instruments and equipment to reduce the danger of spreading COVID-19. Dental practices are advised to prioritize and minimize the use of aerosol generating procedures and equipment.

When aerosol generating procedures are necessary four-handed dentistry must be used as well as high evacuation suction. Dental dams are also advised to minimize droplet splatter of salivary fluids and aerosols.


Dental offices are required to provide appropriate PPE to staff. The number of Dental Health Care Provider (DHCP) present during a procedure should be limited to only those essential for that patient's care and procedure support. Visitors should not be present for the procedure.

Dental offices should use and are referred to the American Dental Association (ADA) guidelines which can be found at www.ada.org. Offices can also refer to the revised ADA *Return to Work Toolkit* found through the same website.

No employee should be obligated to work during this Covid-19 Pandemic.

For further information please contact Donna Christensen, M.D. Heath Strategist at (202) 288-3142 or Wanson Harris, Director of Environmental Health at (340) 643-9305 or Dr. Tayo Delano, Head V.I. Board of Dental Examiners (340) 778-3636

Sincerely,


Justa E. Encarnacion, RN, BSN, MBA/HCM
Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Health

Cc: E. Olutayo Delano, BDS, MS,
Chairperson VI Board of Dental Examiners

