

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a coronavirus/ novel coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

A novel coronavirus (CoV) is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans.

2. What are the symptoms of someone infected with a coronavirus?

Common signs include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties. Most cases are mild. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and in rare cases death.

3. Can coronaviruses be transmitted from person to person?

Yes, some coronaviruses can be transmitted from person to person, usually after close contact (two meters) with an infected patient.

4. Is there a vaccine available for this infection?

At this time there isn't a vaccine available for novel coronavirus.

5. Where can I find current, credible information about COVID-19?

There are many reputable places to find information on COVID-19. Some of those include;

- Public Health Ontario www.publichealthontario.ca
- Ontario Dental Association www.oda.on.ca
- Ontario Hospital Association www.oha.ca
- Ontario Ministry of Health www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus

6. What are the newest Federal Measures to slow the spread of COVID-19?

- Canada will be closing its borders to foreign travelers. (flight crews and US exempt)
- Airlines will ban anyone who is showing symptoms of the virus from getting on a plane
- All international flights will be redirected one of four airports (Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal and Calgary)

7. I just returned from a trip outside of Canada. What do I do?

Upon return to Canada:

- Self-isolate for 14 days after your return from travel outside of Canada. Some provinces and territories may have specific recommendations for certain groups such as health care workers. In Ontario healthcare workers are required to self-isolate for 14 days after return.
- Monitor your health for **fever, cough or difficulty breathing**.
- Wash your hands often for 20 seconds and cover your mouth and nose with your arm when coughing or sneezing.

8. How do I know if I have COVID-19?

The Ministry of Health has an [online self-assessment tool](#) to help you determine if you need to seek care.

If you are having difficulty breathing or experiencing other severe symptoms, call 911 immediately. Advise them of your symptoms and travel history.

9. Are traditional disinfectants, such as disinfecting wipes, effective at killing this virus?

Coronaviruses are enveloped viruses, meaning they are one of the easiest types of viruses to kill with the appropriate disinfectant product. Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures (e.g., using cleaners and water to pre-clean surfaces prior to applying a hospital-grade disinfectant to frequently touched surfaces or objects for appropriate contact times as indicated on the product's label) are appropriate for coronavirus in healthcare settings, including those patient-care areas in which aerosol-generating procedures are performed.

10. What is the latest recommendation from the RCDSO?

The College strongly recommends all non-essential and elective dental services are suspended immediately. Emergency treatment should continue.

11. What is a "true emergency situation"?

In dentistry, a "true emergency situation" includes oral-facial trauma, significant infection, prolonged bleeding or pain which cannot be managed by over-the-counter medications.

To manage patients in an emergency scenario in your practice you must follow one of the following scenarios and corresponding personal protective equipment requirements

Scenario 1: Patient presents with an emergency that CAN be managed without generating an aerosol (i.e. high-speed handpiece and air-water syringe will NOT be used)

- Many dental emergencies can be managed without generating an aerosol.
- Using routine practices and contact/droplet precautions (i.e. procedure/surgical mask, gloves and eye protection), obtain a history of the patient's condition and conduct an emergency clinical dental examination. Determine the nature of the emergency and provide care.

Scenario 2: Patient presents with an emergency that CANNOT be managed without generating an aerosol (i.e. high-speed handpiece or air-water syringe MUST be used)

- The patient must be screened for acute respiratory illness, including COVID-19: Presence of a fever, a cough or difficulty breathing AND any of the following:
 - Returned from travel to any country outside of Canada in the last 14 days; OR
 - Close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19; OR
 - Close contact with a person with acute respiratory illness who has returned from travel to an impacted area.
- If the patient screens negative for acute respiratory illness, including COVID-19, then care may be provided using routine practices and contact/droplet precautions (i.e. procedure/surgical mask, gloves and eye protection).
- If the patient screens positive for acute respiratory illness, including COVID-19, then care must be provided using enhanced precautions (i.e. N95 mask, gloves, eye protection, face shield and protective gown).