

PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF  
ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEONS

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**PSOMS**

March 25, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf  
Governor, State of Pennsylvania  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17108

Dear Governor Wolf:

The leadership of the Pennsylvania Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (PSOMS), in an effort to assist the Pennsylvania Department of Health with its responsibility to develop dental provider guidelines during the current COVID-19 contagion, would like to offer the following pieces of information as they pertain to dental treatment and management of oral and facial emergencies. These guidelines were developed by our parent organization, the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) which represents more than 9,000 oral and maxillofacial surgeons in the United States.

Because of the extreme risk and consequences of spreading the COVID-19 virus, AAOMS recommends that treatment of any patients where the procedure requires the use of a surgical handpiece capable of generating aerosol spray be deferred unless appropriate PPE, including an N95 mask and face shields, is available for use as regular protective masks are not adequate to protect patients, staff or the provider<sup>1</sup> from the aerosols of bodily fluids. It is imperative at this time that only individuals who are experienced with the proper fitting and use of N95 masks and face shields, such as oral and maxillofacial surgeons, be allowed to manage these dental emergencies. The AAOMS therefore, for the safety of all involved and to help prevent the spread of this virus, recommends the following (which can be found at this link

<https://www.aaoms.org/news/covid-19-updates#14>):

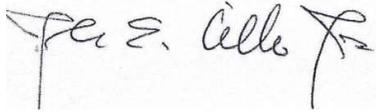
- If appropriate and necessary PPE is not readily available, treatment should be delayed.
- If a patient is COVID-19 positive, treatment should be delayed.
- All patients requiring oral and maxillofacial surgical procedures to be performed in operating rooms should be tested for the COVID-19 virus prior to the surgery.
- Emergent dental treatment, involving non-aerosol procedures, should be handled in a manner that is as minimally invasive as possible using available PPE.

As you can see, the use of negative pressure treatment rooms is not a recommendation and is not being required by any other states' Department of Health. We hope that the Pennsylvania

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Department of Health will take into consideration this information from oral and maxillofacial surgeons who are at the forefront of treating dental emergencies during this pandemic. Our organization, along with the Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA), as always, stand by to provide any assistance that will help in the development of dental treatment guidelines for the State of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe E. Cillo Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Joseph E. Cillo Jr., DMD, MPH, PhD, FACS  
President, Pennsylvania Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

cc: Dr. Rachel Levine, Pennsylvania Secretary of Health

<sup>1</sup> Peng, X., Xu, X., Li, Y. *et al.* Transmission routes of 2019-nCoV and controls in dental practice. *Int J Oral Sci* **12**, 9 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41368-020-0075-9>.