

Communications via email:

From: Tufte, Mylynn K.
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2020 4:05 PM
To: Kiefer, Cheri L.; Rita Sommers
Cc: Mertz, Kim N.; Pastir, Janna L.; Hoechst, Brandon H.; Sickler, Juli L.; Wiedrich, Tim W.
Subject: RE: CDC Recommendation: Postpone Non-Urgent Dental Procedures, Surgeries, and Visits

Thanks for reaching out on this. I've copied some of our team that can send the information on how to order PPE from the Department of Health. After that order is placed, it will be shipped.

[Mylynn Tufte, MBA, MSIM, RN](#)

State Health Officer

From: Kiefer, Cheri L.
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Rita Sommers
Cc: Tufte, Mylynn K. ; Mertz, Kim N. ; Pastir, Janna L.
Subject: RE: CDC Recommendation: Postpone Non-Urgent Dental Procedures, Surgeries, and Visits
Importance: High

Hi Rita,

Thank you for the email. The importance of protecting Oral Surgeons and those working in the front lines with COVID19 and having the proper PPE including N-95 masks available is critical. I know our ND Team is working hard to make sure everyone working on the front lines with COVID19 are protected with the proper PPE. Therefore, the NDBDE request that the Department of Health to consider making oral & maxillofacial surgeons critical first responders allowing for immediate access to N-95 masks as they become available would be best to be addressed by our State Health Officer Mylynn Tufte. I've cc'd her onto this email.

I've also cc'd the ND Department of Health's Section Chief Kim Mertz and the Division Director for Health Promotion Janna Pastir onto this email so they are aware of the request also.

Thank you for understanding and we will get through this together,

[Cheri Kiefer, RN, BSN, RDN, RD](#)

Oral Health Program Director



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From: Rita Sommers
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 12:53 AM
To: Kiefer, Cheri L.
Subject: RE: CDC Recommendation: Postpone Non-Urgent Dental Procedures, Surgeries, and Visits

Hello Cheri,

I wanted to share a concern from the ND Board of Dental Examiners regarding the role of ND licensed dentists specializing in oral and maxillofacial surgery. The Board was contacted by the ND Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons requesting that the Board consider the crucial role of OMSs in managing emergencies in private facilities and outside of emergency rooms, decreasing the load on overtaxed medical systems and minimizing exposure to other healthcare providers and patients. Oral surgeons must have access to proper personal protective equipment including the N95 respirators. The NDBDE would like to request that the Department of Health to consider making oral & maxillofacial surgeons critical first responders allowing for immediate access to N-95 masks as they become available. The American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons provided the recommendation that patients testing positive for COVID-19 or displaying symptoms of COVID-19 who have acute oral and maxillofacial infections, active oral and maxillofacial disease or injuries, or are in acute pain requiring immediate treatment should receive care in facilities where all appropriate PPE, including N-95 masks, are available.

Thank you for your assistance in this very important matter. Attached please find a copy of a letter received by the AAOMS President.

Sincerely,

Rita Sommers | Executive Director
North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners
PO Box 7246
Bismarck, ND 58507-7246
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