



Massachusetts Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

A Component Society of the
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

April 2, 2020

Governor Charlie Baker
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon St.
Office of the Governor, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker,

On behalf of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (OMSs) in Massachusetts and as the officers of the Massachusetts Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons (MSOMS), we respectfully request to be designated as critical responders in the current emergency with immediate access to CDC-designated PPE specific to oral/dental surgery.

We recognize that the hospitals must be the first priority. We also want to point out that OMSs in Massachusetts serve an important role in the management of dental and facial infections and facial traumatic injuries. These infections, if left untreated, can be life threatening. By continuing to see these urgent patients in our offices, we serve as first line responders to this group of patients that would, otherwise be forced to seek treatment in hospitals and emergency rooms.

As the COVID-19 pandemic crisis escalates, OMSs are in a unique position to alleviate the burden of this patient population on our already taxed hospital systems. However, in order to help during this crisis, we require the same Personal Protective Equipment, including gowns, face shields and N-95 masks. Due to the location and nature of our procedures, both our staff and us are an extremely high-risk group. Urgent Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is hazardous aerosol generating occupation, and the CDC has recommended prioritizing respirators for such procedures. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html#take_precautions.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Pushkar Mehra, DMD, MS, FACS
MSOMS President

An-Louise Johnson, DMD, MD
MSOMS Vice president

Robert Memory, DMD, MD
MSOMS Treasurer

CC: Marylou Sudders, Secretary of Health and Human Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Monica Bharel, MD, MPH, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health