



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation



Board of Dentistry

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Henry D. McMaster
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Board of Dentistry Recommendation: COVID-19

For the time period of State of Emergency as declared by the Governor of the State of South Carolina, the Board encourages licensees to follow the CDC Division of Oral Health's recommendation, that dental facilities postpone elective procedures, surgeries and non-urgent dental visits. The CDC's recommendation echoes the recommendation made by the [American Dental Association](#) and the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#) (CMS). Postponing elective and non-urgent dental procedures serves to protect staff and preserve PPE. The urgency and need for dental procedures should be based on clinical judgment and made on a case-by-case basis.

The South Carolina Dental Board's powers are limited by statute to the licensing and discipline of licensees in the dental profession. Accordingly, the Board cannot mandate the closure of dental offices and cannot mandate that licensees and dental offices postpone elective or non-urgent dental procedures. This decision is made by the individual dentist.

The Board is providing this information to its licensees so that they are aware of the most recent recommendations of the CDC and ADA.

For more information on the current guidelines:

[CDC Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings.](#)

[South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control \(DHEC\) COVID-19](#)

[ADA Guidance on Emergency and Non-Emergency Care](#)

[ADA Coronavirus Center for Dentists](#)

<https://www.ada.org/en/publications/ada-news/2020-archive/march/ada-recommending-dentists-postpone-elective-procedures>

Protective Gear

For offices electing to remain open, licensees are to follow [CDC Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Healthcare Settings](#). Office found to not be in compliance may be subject to Board action. Witnesses to licensee non-compliance may submit a complaint with the Board at <https://www.llr.sc.gov/fileacomplaint.aspx>. Please do not call or email complaints in to the Board office.

Offices electing to close are strongly encouraged to assess their inventory of personal protective gear and donate excess items to area hospitals and medical clinics.

Continuing Education

The Board will be reviewing the effects of cancelled continuing education courses and renewals at the next scheduled Board Meeting. Information regarding the Board's decision will be posted following the meeting.

The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation is working closely with state officials regarding the recent travel restrictions and state closures. At this time, the public is restricted from entering the LLR Kingstree Building. However, the board staff is working remotely and will assist you as quickly as they can. Licensees and other members of the public needing assistance are encouraged to visit the Board website at www.llr.sc.gov or contact the Board office at 803-896-4599 or at contact.dentistry@llr.sc.gov

The SCBD will continue to monitor the situation and will communicate updates via email and Board website. Over the next few weeks, the Board encourages both the public and licensees to remain calm and take appropriate action to decrease the transmission of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

South Carolina Board of Dentistry