My practice, like many others, includes patients who are frontline or essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. What should I do to ensure that everyone in the practice – including staff, other patients and myself – remain safe?

The American Dental Association (ADA) recommends screening all dental patients prior to treatment regardless of the patient’s occupation. Any positive responses to the screening questions, such as a declaration of contact with someone who has COVID-19, should lead to a more in-depth discussion.

Dental care may or may not be postponed after thoughtful consideration of the patient’s exact circumstances. For example, if the frontline health care worker always used appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when in contact with COVID+ patients, the risk they present is far less than if they had not done so.

Please refer to the ADA’s Return to Work Interim Guidance Toolkit for more information and resources.

Disclaimer. These materials are intended to provide helpful information to dentists and dental team members. They are in no way a substitute for actual professional advice based upon your unique facts and circumstances. This content is not intended or offered, nor should it be taken, as legal or other professional advice. You should always consult with your own professional advisors (e.g. attorney, accountant, insurance carrier). To the extent ADA has included links to any third party web site(s), ADA intends no endorsement of their content and implies no affiliation with the organizations that provide their content. Further, ADA makes no representations or warranties about the information provided on those sites.