

Equity in Patient Screening and Treatment

ADA®

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.

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