



SADA

THE SOUTH AFRICAN
DENTAL ASSOCIATION

PRESS RELEASE

TITLE:

SADA IS RECOMMENDING DENTISTS & OTHER ORAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS IN SA TO POSTPONE ELECTIVE PROCEDURES IN THE FACE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

STATEMENT:

SADA recommendations to all Oral Health Practitioners in SA in the face of COVID-19 Pandemic with regard to changes in practice protocol as a precautionary measure

GAUTENG – 17th March 2020

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has announced that COVID-19 is a pandemic. As of the 16 March 2020, South Africa had 62 cases of the virus confirmed.

“The South African Dental Association (SADA) is deeply concerned about the health and well-being of the public and the whole dental team. The association also recognizes the unprecedented and extraordinary circumstances dentists and all health care professionals face related to growing concern relating to this pandemic and it cannot, therefore, be business of dentistry as usual” says Dr Renier Putter, Chairperson of the Board, the South African Dental Association.

There is enough scientific evidence to support that the pathogenic microorganisms can be transmitted in dental settings through direct contact with blood, oral fluids, or other patient materials, contact of conjunctival nasal, or oral mucosa with droplets and aerosols containing microorganisms generated from an infected individual and propelled a short distance by coughing and talking without a mask, and indirect contact with contaminated instruments and/or environmental surfaces.

RECOMMENDATION: To this end and for the oral health profession to continue to support efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, SADA recommends that oral health practitioners nationwide should seriously consider postponing elective dental procedures until the pandemic clears or it is safe to resume normal dental practice.

Those employed by the state must be guided by the Department of Health. The statement above must be read and applied in conjunction with any other applicable agreements and requirements. SADA is engaging with the Department on this matter.

We are also aware of the growing scarcity of dental consumables that may further restrict the procedures that practitioners can perform. SADA will continue to engage with the dental suppliers to see what could be done to address this matter.

Mr KC Makhubele, CEO of SADA says that the South African Dental Association is continually evaluating the pandemic and will update its recommendation on an ongoing basis as new information becomes available. Various guidelines have already been released for the benefit of the oral health profession and the public. Please visit www.sada.co.za. We will continue to provide guidance and leadership throughout these trying times. We encourage members to send any requests or questions and or commentary to clinicalsupport@sada.co.za

Ends

Release date: 17^h March 2020

About SADA:

The leading professional industry membership body for dentistry in Southern Africa, the South African Dental Association (SADA) represents over 80% of registered dentists in the country's private and public sectors. Membership is open to industry professionals from dental students to retired dentists.

The Association is committed and engaged in processes relating to setting industry standards and formulating policies. Learn more about SADA at <https://www.sada.co.za>

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