Coronavirus Information for Dental Hygienists

ADHA is sharing the following information to the dental hygiene community in light of the ongoing outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

According to the CDC, Coronavirus is a respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China with the ability to spread person-to-person. The risk to individuals is dependent on exposure. At this time, some people will have an increased risk of infection, for example healthcare workers caring for COVID-19 patients and other close contacts. For the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low.

Resources
The CDC has resources for health care professionals such as guidance for evaluating patients, infection control, preparedness checklists, supply of personal protective equipment and more. Available here. The Healthcare Personnel Preparedness Checklist for COVID-19 is included at the end of this document. There is also general information available about the virus including symptoms and complications. Available here.

Criteria to Guide Evaluation of Patients Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19
Patients in the United States who meet the following criteria should be evaluated as a PUI in association with the outbreak of COVID-19 in Wuhan City, China.

<table>
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<th>Clinical Features</th>
<th>&amp;</th>
<th>Epidemiologic Risk</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fever(^1) or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)</td>
<td>and</td>
<td>Any person, including healthcare workers(^2), who has had close contact(^3) with a laboratory-confirmed(^4) COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fever(^1) and signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization</td>
<td>and</td>
<td>A history of travel from affected geographic areas(^5) (China, Iran, Italy, Japan, South Korea) within 14 days of symptom onset</td>
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<td>Fever(^1) with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization and without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)(^6)</td>
<td>and</td>
<td>No source of exposure has been identified</td>
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The criteria are intended to serve as guidance for evaluation. Patients should be evaluated and discussed with public health departments on a case-by-case basis if their clinical presentation or exposure history is equivocal (e.g., uncertain travel or exposure).

Recommendations for Reporting, Testing, and Specimen Collection
Clinicians should immediately implement recommended infection prevention and control practices if a patient is suspected of having COVID-19. They should also notify infection control personnel at their healthcare facility and their state or local health department if a patient is classified as a PUI for COVID-19. State health departments that have identified a PUI or a laboratory-confirmed case should complete a PUI and Case Report form through the processes identified on CDC’s Coronavirus Disease 2019 website.
Healthcare Personnel Preparedness Checklist for COVID-19

Front-line healthcare personnel in the United States should be prepared to evaluate patients for 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The following checklist highlights key steps for healthcare personnel in preparation for transport and arrival of patients potentially infected with COVID-19.


☐ Review your infection prevention and control policies and CDC infection control recommendations for COVID-19 (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/COVID-19/infection-control.html) for:
  ☐ Assessment and triage of patients with acute respiratory symptoms
  ☐ Patient placement
  ☐ Implementation of Standard, Contact, and Airborne Precautions, including the use of eye protection
  ☐ Visitor management and exclusion
  ☐ Source control measures for patients (e.g., put facemask on suspect patients)
  ☐ Requirements for performing aerosol generating procedures

☐ Be alert for patients who meet the persons under investigation (PUI) (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/COVID-19/hcp/clinical-criteria.html) definition

☐ Know how to report a potential COVID-19 case or exposure to facility infection control leads and public health officials

☐ Know who, when, and how to seek evaluation by occupational health following an unprotected exposure (i.e., not wearing recommended PPE) to a suspected or confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 patient

☐ Remain at home, and notify occupational health services, if you are ill

☐ Know how to contact and receive information from your state or local public health agency

This information is also available online at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/COVID-19/hcp/hcp-personnel-checklist.html