

The Effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Dental Services in Nevada

March 16

NSBDE Announcement of recommendation to postpone non-emergency dental services.

March 24

DHHS Memo that provides authorization to NSBDE to discipline providers that do not comply with CDC guidance.

April 7

Dental scope of practice expanded to allow dental professionals to play a role in a medical setting during the pandemic.

April 28

Multifactorial phase-in plan for non-emergency dental treatment approved by the Governor Sisolak's Medical Advisory Team.

April 29

NSBDE approved DHHS Memo which outlines the first stage of the dental phase-in plan.

May 4

Non-emergency dental services resume in Nevada. Elective care and ultrasonic instrumentation postponed.



COVID-19 Related Health Literacy Documents Created by OHP

1. **March 24th**: memorandum to all licensed dental providers to cease non-emergency dental care, [Routine, Non-Essential Visits, Procedures and Surgeries](#).
2. **March 26th**: [Public announcement](#) on COVID-19 related changes to dental offices and services provided.
3. **April 14th and 15th**: The Governor's Medical Advisory Team (MAT) approved [Emergency Response Providers: Dental](#) which expanded the scope of practice of dentists and dental hygienists during this state of emergency and included us in the Battle Born Medical Corps. Flyers were produced to notify the dental community of this change and to encourage them to enroll in the Battle Born Medical Corps.
4. **April 28th**: the reopening plan for dental offices in Nevada entitled [Guidance for Dental Services in Nevada](#) approved by the Governor's Medical Advisory Team (MAT).
5. **April 28th**: A [press release](#) was created in collaboration with the Governor's Office to announce expansion of dental services in Nevada.
6. **April 30th**: Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners meeting and adoption of DHHS Memorandum to expand dental services in Nevada on May 4th. The notice can be found [on their website](#).
7. **April 4th**: To answer questions from the DHHS Memorandum a clarification letter was created entitled, [Clarification on Guidance for Dental Services](#)
8. **May**: [Revised list of oral health initiatives](#) that would be beneficial if carried forward for the next legislative session was presented to the Legislative Health Care Committee.
9. **May**: Special Olympics, Special Smiles presentation for Virtual Summer Games. Video was entitled [Special Smiles New Office Procedures](#).
10. **June**: [Guidance on COVID-19 Exposure for Dental Healthcare Personnel \(DHCP\)](#) was created as a decision tree to provide detailed information that DHCPs can follow should they develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or experience exposure.

Oral Health Program Spring Presentations:

1. National Oral Health Conference April 6-8, 2020 rescheduled to June
 - i. **Title:** Emergency Room Redirect Pilot Using Teledentistry accepted for presentation at a roundtable session.
2. American Public Health Association 2020 Annual Meeting and ExpoVirtual Conference. The following abstracts were accepted for presentation.
 - i. **Abstract Title:** Emergency room redirect for non-traumatic dental conditions pilot project in Nevada using teladentistry

- ii. **Abstract Title:** Medicaid dental benefits evolve to tackle chronic health conditions in Nevada: A case study
- 3. [Legislative Committee on Health Care](#) two presentations on February 19th. The first entitled ‘Overview of the State of Oral Health in Nevada—Successes, Challenges, and Policy Options’ and the second entitled ‘Overview of the Implementation of Assembly Bill 223 and Senate Bill 366 That Passed During the 2019 Legislative Session’.
- 4. [Nevada Week S2, Ep 29: Healthcare in Rural Nevada](#)
- 5. [Face the State Interview Part 1](#)
- 6. [Face the State Interview Part 2](#)
- 7. COVID Media Presentations:
 - i. [NSBDE meeting presentation](#)
 - ii. [Plan for Dental Providers Offers Guidance for Procedures](#)
 - iii. Nevada Independent, [Facing lack of protective gear, dental hygienists want more guidance](#)
 - iv. [KTVN, Dentist during the Pandemic](#)
- 8. Special Olympics, Special Smiles presentation for Virtual Summer Games with Dr. Gewelber
 - i. Presenter, What Are Cavities
 - ii. Presenter, video was entitled [Special Smiles New Office Procedures.](#)
- 9. Den 7255 Summer/2020/1hr
 - i. Overview of the Nevada Oral Health Program Successes, Challenges, and Policy Options
- 10. Den 7354 Summer/2020/1hr
 - i. State Perspective of Dental Services for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (ID/DD)
- 11. 2020 Southern Nevada Dental Society Dinner Meeting
 - i. Presenter, *Making Waves in the Desert*

Research:

- 1. K. Izuora, A. Basu, A. Alver, A. Salaza, A. Capurro, C. Gewelber, C. Cross, S. Williams and J. Ebersole. Relationship Between Plasma CRP And Fibrinogen Measured Using Dried Blood Samples And Vascular Complications In Type 2 Diabetes. Poster presentation at the American Diabetes Association 80th Scientific Sessions (virtual meeting). Diabetes 2020 June; Volume 69: Supplement 1, <https://doi.org/10.2337/db20-505-P>

Two grants secured:

- 1. Nevada Department of Education for \$35,760 to complete a basic screening survey of licensed childcare facilities in rural Nevada.
- 2. DHHS, Department of Aging and Disability for \$252,520 to support the UNLV SDM Special Care Clinic and a desensitization event with NV OHP.