

TO: Vermont Dental Health Care Providers and Hospitals
FROM: Mark Levine, MD, Commissioner of Health

**Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): Dental Health Care
Referral Network for Emergency Dental Procedures**

Updated May 6, 2020: This message has been updated to include additional practices in the emergency dental health care network.

Background:

[Addendum 9 to Executive Order 01-20](#), issued by Governor Phil Scott on April 10, 2020, requires dental health care professionals practicing in Vermont to suspend elective dental care for children and adults until May 15, 2020. This health advisory provides guidance for dental professionals on infection prevention and control measures and includes an *updated listing* of dental practices participating in the dental emergency referral network during the COVID-19 pandemic. This network can be accessed by hospitals and dental practices that do not meet the recommendations established by [CDC/OSHA](#) for providing safe dental care during the COVID-19 pandemic. For a description of what constitutes a dental emergency and conditions requiring urgent care, please refer to the American Dental Association's (ADA) resource, "[What Constitutes a Dental Emergency?](#)". Health care professionals *must continue to be available to their patients* as needed for emergencies and urgent care. This is in line with the ADA's "[Guidance on Continuing to Practice Ethically during COVID-19](#)".

Requested Actions:

1. Prioritize teledentistry to assess and triage patients for dental emergencies.

Dental health care professionals, their staff and their patients are in a [high-risk category for exposure to SARS-CoV-2](#), particularly with aerosol-generating procedures. Dental professionals should prioritize the use of teledentistry when dealing with a dental emergency. [Pharmacological management of pain and infection](#) should be attempted whenever possible. Using teledentistry will reduce the risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 for both patients and staff and will allow dental health care practitioners to triage patients who require urgent in-person care.

For details on how to code and submit claims for teledentistry and telephone consultations to Vermont Medicaid, please refer to [this letter](#) from the Department of Vermont Health Access regarding telemedicine and telephonic coverage for dental services.

2. If needed, refer patients with dental emergencies who have been triaged through teledentistry to the statewide network of emergency treatment sites.

If you are a hospital, if your dental practice office does not conform to the [CDC/OSHA](#) environmental conditions, or if you do not have adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) for safe in-person treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic, you may refer dental emergencies to one of the emergency dental care sites listed below. The goal is to keep Vermonters from seeking care for dental emergencies in busy hospitals and emergency departments and to provide safe dental care in dental practices.

Referrals should only be made after the referring dentists have appropriately triaged their emergency patients via teledentistry and have the opinion that they need in-person interventions. Dentists are required to call the dentist receiving the referral to consult and discuss the patient scenario and how their treatment and care can be best managed. Consultation with the treating dentist is required prior to telling the patient they will receive emergency in-person care.

The following dental practices will serve as dental emergency treatment sites until further notice:

PRACTICE	LOCATION	CONTACT NUMBER
Associates in Periodontics	South Burlington, VT	802-863-5447
Battenkill Valley Health Center	Arlington, VT	802-375-6566
Champlain Periodontal	South Burlington, VT	802-862-1435
Champlain Valley Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	South Burlington, VT	802-862-9196
Community Health Centers of Burlington	Burlington, VT	802-652-1050
Community Health Centers of Lamoille Valley	Morrisville, VT	802-888-7585
Community Health Centers of the Rutland Region	Rutland, VT	802-774-5050
Complete Health Periodontics	Rutland, VT	802-775-7440
Green Mountain Oral Surgery	Rutland, VT	802-775-9700
Green Mountain Pediatric Dentistry	South Burlington	802-332-6808
Just Kids Pediatric Dentistry	Norwich, VT	907-350-5488
Montshire Endodontics	Barre, VT	802-371-0014
New England Oral Surgery	Barre, VT	802-622-0323
Northern Vermont Oral Surgery	Essex Junction, VT	802-872-3593
Oral & Dental Implant Surgery	Bennington, VT	802-447-7073
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Associates	South Burlington, VT	802-860-6725
Red Clover Family Dentistry	Bristol, VT	802-453-3911
Southern Vermont Endodontics	Rutland, VT	802-773-7767
Sunset Valley Dental	Woodstock, VT	802-457-1903
The Health Center of Plainfield	Plainfield, VT	802-454-1047
Timberlane Dental Group Pediatric Dentists	South Burlington, VT	802-864-6881
Upper Valley Endodontics	White River Junction, VT	802-295-7522
VT Center for Dental Implants & Maxillofacial Surgery	Colchester, VT	802-655-5090

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3. Practices that provide any in-person care should strictly follow infection control precautions.

To protect staff and patients, dental health care professionals should strictly follow [appropriate recommended infection control measures](#), especially when performing procedures generating aerosol (including but not limited to use of high-speed handpiece and dental polishing). **Treatment and procedures should be as minimally invasive as possible**, avoiding aerosol-generating procedures to the greatest extent possible.

These strict measures apply regardless of the health status of the patient, as patients may be in an asymptomatic period of SARS-CoV-2 infection, may be unaware they are infected, or may choose to conceal their infection ([Meng, Hua & Bian, 2020](#); [Furukawa, Brookes, & Sobel, 2020](#)). For these reasons, **every patient should be treated as if they had COVID-19**.

For additional guidance on workplace safety during this pandemic, please refer to OSHA's [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the HAN Coordinator at 802-859-5900 or vthan@vermont.gov.

HAN Message Type Definitions

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service Message: Provides general correspondence from VDH, which is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.