



17th August 2020

Dear Members,

The World Health Organization (WHO) issued guidance on August 3, 2020 on recommendations for the provision of essential oral health services in the context of Covid-19. This guidance recommends prioritizing essential dental care and the delaying of non-essential dental care where Covid-19 is in an area of community transmission and not reduced to cluster cases. However, the WHO guidance also advises that oral health care providers follow recommendations from local officials, be they on the national or community level.

On August 12, 2020, the American Dental Association (ADA) strongly disagreed with the WHO, indicating that dentistry is essential health care because of its role in evaluating, diagnosing, preventing and treating oral diseases, which can affect systemic health. The ADA concluded that “Millions of patients have safely visited their dentists in the past few months for the full range of dental services. With appropriate PPE, dental care should continue to be delivered during global pandemics or other disaster situations.”

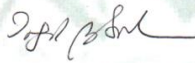
The Prime Minister and the Chief Medical Officer have indicated on Saturday 15th August 2020, that Trinidad and Tobago has attained the WHO status of community spread with regards to Covid-19. In the address though, it was emphasized that essential services remain open which includes dental services.

The Dental Council of Trinidad and Tobago therefore recommends that, should you decide to continue provision of dental care in your practice, the highest level of PPE be utilized - masks, goggles and face shields. Additionally, we advocate the use of pre-rinses, rubber dams and high velocity suction whenever possible, in addition to rigorous sanitation of the work environment so as to minimize the risk of spread of Covid-19. We would encourage you to

review the guidelines sent previously from the DCTT and the Ministry of Health outlining the recommendations based on research from ADA, CDC and OSHA.

The DCTT would like to thank you for your attention to this matter and hope that our members continue to comply with policies and protocols implemented in order to restrict spread of Covid-19. Should you require any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ingrid Seeberan', is positioned above a dashed horizontal line.

Dr. Ingrid Seeberan
Secretary – DDS (Hons)