# COVID-19 Obligations for Ontario Dentists

For more information on IPAC obligations refer to the College’s IPAC FAQs

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<tr>
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| Patient screening | Patients are to be screened for signs and symptoms of infectious disease (including, but not limited to, COVID-19)  
Dentists can determine preferred screening protocol  
Results of active screening and any positive screening results are to be recorded in the patient’s record | RCDSO Standard on Infection Prevention and Control, 2018  
PHO: Summary of Infection Prevention and Control Key Principles for Clinical Office Practice | RESCINDED  
Patients must be screened using the Ministry’s COVID-19 screening protocol |
| Signage | Signage is to be posted requesting that individuals who are ill or experiencing symptoms of any illness identify themselves to the receptionist (not specific to COVID-19) | RCDSO Standard on Infection Prevention and Control, 2018  
PHO: Summary of Infection Prevention and Control Key Principles for Clinical Office Practice | RESCINDED  
Post signage in common areas outlining office policies for patients and visitors related to COVID-19 |
| PPE requirements for reception / screening | Reception (not involved in preliminary screening):  
• No PPE requirements\(^1\)  
For staff performing preliminary screening (with or without direct patient contact), the following precautions are recommended:  
• Remain behind a barrier; or,  
• Maintain a distance of at least 2 m from the individual being screened; or,  
• Wear a medical mask (minimum ASTM level 1), gown, gloves and eye protection. | RCDSO Standard on Infection Prevention and Control, 2018  
PHO: IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19 (Oct 2022) | RESCINDED  
• Minimum ASTM level 1 procedure mask  
• Physical barrier recommended |

\(^1\) Masks recommended if within 2m of a patient who has screened or tested positive for COVID-19
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient masking</td>
<td>Patients who screen / test negative for COVID-19 are not required to wear a mask</td>
<td></td>
<td>NO CHANGE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPE requirements for the treatment of patients who screen / test negative for COVID-19</td>
<td>Routine practices</td>
<td>RCDSO Standard on Infection Prevention and Control, 2018</td>
<td>RESCINDED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treatment of patients who screen / test positive for COVID-19</td>
<td>Recommend deferring care unless urgent or emergent</td>
<td>RCDSO Standard on Infection Prevention and Control, 2018</td>
<td>NO CHANGE</td>
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<td>PPE recommendations for the treatment of patients who screen / test positive for COVID-19</td>
<td>Upon arrival: • Provide medical mask if tolerated and not contraindicated • Maintain 2m distance • Place patient in room with door closed, where possible</td>
<td>PHO: IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19 (Oct 2022)</td>
<td>RESCINDED</td>
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<td>For all in-person care, including AGPs: • fit-tested, seal-checked N95 (or equivalent), • eye protection, • gown, and • gloves</td>
<td>PHO: IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19 (Oct 2022)</td>
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| Use of gowns | Patients who screen / test *negative* for COVID-19:  
• Routine practices | RCDSO Standard on Infection Prevention and Control, 2018 | **RESCINDED**  
Non-AGP:  
• Isolation gown (optional)  
AGP:  
• Isolation gown required |
| | Patients who screen / test *positive* for COVID-19:  
• Isolation gown recommended for in-person care | PHO: IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19 (Oct 2022) | **RESCINDED**  
Isolation gowns required |
| AGPs for COVID-positive patients (operative requirements) | None |  | **RESCINDED**  
• Avoid AGPs  
• Use the lowest aerosol-generating options  
• AGPs must be performed in an enclosed operatory  
• Use rubber dam with high-volume suction |
| Enclosed operatories | No longer required.  
PHO recommends the following for COVID-19 positive patients:  
• patients with suspect or confirmed COVID-19 be cared for in a single room, whenever possible;  
• an airborne infection isolation room (AIIR) or a single room with the door closed be used for AGMPs involving patients who are suspect of confirmed COVID-19 positive. | PHO: IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19 (Oct 2022) | **NO CHANGE** |