

COVID-19 Obligations for Ontario Dentists

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

ACRONYMS

- **AGP:** Aerosol Generating Procedure
- **AIIR:** Airborne Infection Isolation Room
- **IPAC:** Infection Prevention and Control
- **PHO:** Public Health Ontario
- **PPE:** Personal Protective Equipment
- **RCDSO:** Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario

TOPIC	UPDATED REQUIREMENTS	SOURCE DOCUMENT	FORMER REQUIREMENTS
Patient screening	<p>Patients are to be screened for signs and symptoms of infectious disease (including, but not limited to, COVID-19)</p> <p>Dentists can determine preferred screening protocol</p> <p>Results of active screening and any positive screening results are to be recorded in the patient's record</p>	<p>RCDSO Standard on Infection Prevention and Control, 2018</p> <p>PHO: Summary of Infection Prevention and Control Key Principles for Clinical Office Practice</p>	<p>RESCINDED</p> <p>Patients must be screened using the <i>Ministry's COVID-19 screening protocol</i></p>
Signage	<p>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)</p>	<p>RCDSO Standard on Infection Prevention and Control, 2018</p> <p>PHO: Summary of Infection Prevention and Control Key Principles for Clinical Office Practice</p>	<p>RESCINDED</p> <p>Post signage in common areas outlining office policies for patients and visitors <i>related to COVID-19</i></p>

TOPIC	UPDATED REQUIREMENTS	SOURCE DOCUMENT	FORMER REQUIREMENTS
PPE requirements for reception / screening	<p>Reception (not involved in preliminary screening):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No PPE requirements¹ 		<p>RESCINDED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum ASTM level 1 procedure mask • Physical barrier recommended
	<p>For staff performing preliminary screening (with or without direct patient contact), the following precautions are recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>PHO: IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19 (Oct 2022)</p>	<p>RESCINDED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum ASTM level 1 procedure mask • Physical barrier recommended
Patient masking	<p>Patients who screen / test <i>negative</i> for COVID-19 are not required to wear a mask</p>		<p>NO CHANGE</p>
PPE recommendations for the treatment of patients who screen / test <i>negative</i> for COVID-19	<p>Routine practices</p>	<p>RCDSO Standard on Infection Prevention and Control, 2018</p>	<p>RESCINDED</p> <p>Non-AGP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASTM level 2 or 3 procedure/ surgical mask • Gloves • Eye protection: goggles or face shield • Isolation gown (optional) <p>AGP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N95 respirator (fit-tested, seal-checked), or the equivalent, as approved by Health Canada • Gloves • Eye protection: goggles or face shield • Isolation gown

¹ Masks recommended if within 2m of a patient who has screened or tested positive for COVID-19

TOPIC	UPDATED REQUIREMENTS	SOURCE DOCUMENT	FORMER REQUIREMENTS
Treatment of patients who screen / test <i>positive</i> for COVID-19	Recommend deferring care unless urgent or emergent	RCDSO Standard on Infection Prevention and Control, 2018	NO CHANGE
PPE recommendations for the treatment of patients who screen / test <i>positive</i> for COVID-19	Upon arrival: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide medical mask if tolerated and not contraindicated • Maintain 2m distance • Place patient in room with door closed, where possible 	PHO: IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19 (Oct 2022)	RESCINDED Patient must don a mask NO CHANGE Place patient in room with door closed, where possible
	For <u>all</u> in-person care, including AGPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fit-tested, seal-checked N95 (or equivalent), • eye protection, • gown, and • gloves 	PHO: IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19 (Oct 2022)	NO CHANGE
Use of gowns	Patients who screen / test <i>negative</i> for COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine practices 	RCDSO Standard on Infection Prevention and Control, 2018	RESCINDED Non-AGP: • Isolation gown (optional) AGP: • Isolation gown required
	Patients who screen / test <i>positive</i> for COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

TOPIC	UPDATED REQUIREMENTS	SOURCE DOCUMENT	FORMER REQUIREMENTS
AGPs for COVID-positive patients (operative requirements)	None		<p>RESCINDED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>No longer required.</p> <p>PHO <i>recommends</i> the following for COVID-19 positive patients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>PHO: IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19 (Oct 2022)</p>	<p>NO CHANGE</p>