Important Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update for Volunteer Leaders

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, I am committed to keeping you, our state leaders, apprised of recent developments and our advocacy efforts on behalf of the nation’s dental hygienists.

**ADHA Interim Guidance on Return to Work**

To assist dental hygienists with the many unanswered questions about how to safely return to work, and the need for and availability of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), I announced the creation of the ADHA Task Force on Return to Work last week. I wanted you to be among the first to know that the Task Force has developed **ADHA Interim Guidance on Return to Work** and we are proudly sharing the Interim Guidance with you now. We have heard from many state leaders asking for assistance in answering questions from dental hygienists in your states.

*The Interim Guidance document* provides evidence-based guidance for dental hygienists on returning to work. The document will be continually updated and is intended to be a living resource for the profession.

We need your help in sharing this information with our members. Shortly, you will see a social media post on ADHA channels about the release of the report. Please share this to your state and local social media channels and direct all questions to adhacovidtaskforce@adha.net.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the Task Force members for sharing their experience and expertise to guide dental hygienists through these truly challenging times.

JoAnn Gurenlian, RDH, MS, PhD, AFAAOM, Chair;
Katy Battani, RDH, MS;
Kathy Eklund, RDH, MHP;
Cindy Purdy, RDH, BSDH;
Vhari C. Rust-Clark, BSDH, RDH;
Annette Smith, RDH, MSDH;
Erin Haley, RDH, MS, PHRDH, OM, Board Advisor
ADHA Letter to the U.S. Coronavirus Task Force

Today, ADHA joined forces with the American Dental Education Association and sent a letter to the chairman of the U.S. Coronavirus Task Force, Vice President Mike Pence. The letter implores the U.S. Coronavirus Task Force to work with relevant federal agencies and stakeholders, as well as the nation’s governors, to help ensure that there is adequate PPE for the entire dental team, including N95 respirators and face shields, before the dental team returns to work and elective dental services resume.

ADHA Advocacy Campaign Directed to the Nation’s Governors

We continue to hear dental hygienists regarding concerns about returning to work and uncertainty about the appropriate PPE to keep themselves, their patients, colleagues, families and communities safe. Thank You to the more than 22,000 dental hygienists who have sent messages to their governor! The work continues! If you have not already done so, please add your voice at ADHA’s Action Center.

ADHA Hosting Virtual Annual Conference June 26-28

The ADHA Return to Work Task Force will conduct a special panel at the newly announced ADHA Virtual Conference. This will be a fantastic way to stay connected with our community about the latest developments and enable real-time Q+A. Spread the word! If you have not already registered, please do so here.

Be well.

Matt Crespin, MPH, RDH
ADHA President