



Dr. Sheila L. Armstrong

Greetings National Dental Association Members! It has been almost 6 weeks since the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our daily lives. We will forever make references to Pre-COVID-19 practices and Post-COVID-19 practices. Although we are not out of the woods with regard to Coronavirus, it does appear that we may be starting to see some slight “flattening of the proverbial curve” that is tracking the Coronavirus and its effects in the United States. The National Dental Association Coronavirus Task Force has been working every single day since the inception of this pandemic, gathering information to provide for you, so that you will be able to navigate with ease during this time, assist your community and return to work safely.

Over these next few weeks, we are going to see the Governors start to “re-open” the states and allow certain services and businesses to resume operation. Due to the fact that we as dentist work in highly contagious environments, we must be prepared to ensure that every visit to the dental office is safe for the patient, the staff, and most importantly you the dentist. It will not be business as usual or Pre-COVID-19 practices, we will be going to the next level in everything that we do, from infection control, patient encounter management, and being recognized as a source for providing screening and testing for COVID-19. The National Dental Association is committed to bringing you the most up-to date information regarding financial assistance during this unprecedented time in our history. As we have just witnessed that the two SBA, government funded loan programs, the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and the Paycheck Protection Program loan (PPP), was exhausted of funds (\$349 Billion). If you were fortunate enough to receive funding through these programs, we are ecstatic for you, but there were far too many of our members that were not fortunate to receive funding and are in need of funding to reopen their practices. The NDA is sensitive to those needs and we are ready to speak up and advocate for these small business owners. We have just received notice that an **additional \$480 Billion** has been approved in the Senate to fund the SBA loan programs. So please continue to pursue support for your practices through these means. We also are acutely aware that navigating the application process for loans and grants is time consuming and tedious, often requiring professional advice from financial experts, accountants, tax attorney’s and advisors. We encourage you to enlist the services of qualified experts to understand the financial impact, reporting and tax implications for 2020 and beyond.

We have also been inundated with the “news” that in our communities our patients, our family members, our colleagues, our church members and club members are dying at disproportionate rates. This is not “news” to those of us who serve in the trenches every day! COVID-19 has only illuminated problems that have plagued our communities for decades. We know our communities and we know all of the reasons why people in communities of color fall through the healthcare gaps, including implicit and explicit biases by healthcare workers, low paying jobs in the service sector, lack of insurance, and inadequate reimbursement for providers, making it difficult to locate providers of certain medical plans to name a few. We are the safety-net providers, who fill in the gaps for the underserved. As skilled health professionals, we are more than capable to assist our medical colleagues and nurses and serve on



the “frontlines” of this pandemic. As trusted and respected community health providers, we can be of most help performing testing, making the proper referrals, educating our communities and getting people the help that they need, early. Our communities need us to help save lives.

As you return to work, you should have available to you, COVID-19 Rapid test kits, and antibody test kits to screen your staff, and test patients before treatment. As you know, many carriers are asymptomatic. In the future, you should also be equipped to deliver vaccinations against COVID-19. Again, providing valuable information, treatment and confidence to people regarding their Coronavirus status. The National Dental Association is advocating for you on the legislative front for these types of allowances for our members, but again **we need your assistance** in contacting, informing and engaging legislators on the state and local level.

As states start to “re-open”, and our members start to return to work, the National Dental Association will be providing you with information regarding re-entry protocols regarding infection control and PPE, (Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html>)

financial readiness, and new and innovative ways to access and manage patients through means like Teledentistry. I am very excited to present an NDA White Paper, written by our member Dr. Camesia O. Matthews, on “The Benefits of Pretreatment Oral Rinsing during and after the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic”- (<https://ndaonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/White-paper-pre-rinses-updated-C-Matthews-April-2020-1.pdf>) . Please read this paper as it may be beneficial when you return to work. Also, for your convenience, we have posted the recent NDA -Teledentistry 101 Webinar, (<https://ndaonline.org/nda-teledentistry-webinar/>) featuring Drs. Nathan Suter and Mary Lee Conicella. This informative presentation discussed how to implement Teledentistry into your practice as a method of triage during this pandemic, and coding for insurance reimbursement. I would also like to thank Aetna Dental and Dr. Mary Lee Conicella for supporting this NDA initiative.

Last but definitely not least, I hope that all of our NDA members and family organization members (SNDA, NDHA, NDAA, ANDA, NDAF) are healthy and safe both physically, mentally and spiritually. The Coronavirus Task Force has implemented “Transformational Thursdays”, a prayer line dedicated to looking to the Higher Power that has always guided and shielded our people. Please join us on Thursdays at 8:00pm virtually or by phone for inspiration, hope and prayer as we move to a new normal in our lives.

Please see the important links listed below, and return back to our website for updated information. Stay safe, stay home it’s not over yet!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila L. Armstrong, DDS". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sheila L. Armstrong, DDS, FACD, FICD
National Dental Association, President



www.ndaonline.org/coronavirus/psa

Additional Important Links:

- 1.) Teledentistry- (DentaQuest)
https://www.dentaquestpartnership.org/sites/default/files/DQP_Fast-trackToTeledentistry_Final.pdf
- 2.) COVID-19 Testing (Henry Schein)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mbmVqbZ4oA&feature=youtu.be>
- 3.) Remote Area Medical- <https://volunteer.ramusa.org/VImage.ashx?I=2974279X43FAC58A-DA5D-4490-8>

Financial Advisors and Resources:

Walker & Co, LLP
Ronald P. Walker, CPA
www.walkerllp.com
202-363-9300

Schiff & Associates, LLC
Allen Schiff, CPA
www.schiffcpa.com
410-321-7707

Forethought Advisors, LLC
Mark Dickson
www.forethoughtadvisorsllc.com
202-413-9676