



Dr. Sheila L. Armstrong

**Greetings National Dental Association Members!** We are now 9 months into the COVID-19 pandemic in our country, with changes happening almost everyday in terms of transmission, and mitigation. We have experienced the initial spike of Coronavirus cases, partial shutdown of the country to improve mitigation, a slowdown in the of cases, a return to work with new and enhanced mitigating protocols, another spike in confirmed cases of Coronavirus, and now the onset of two Vaccines with emergency use authorizations. We are starting to see a small light at the end of the proverbial tunnel, in terms of a possible resolution. The key role that we as essential healthcare providers are tasked

with is “educating ourselves first about the efficacy of the Vaccines for the communities that we serve and then passing that education on to those vulnerable communities in order to help to bring this virus to an end in our country. Below you will find a number of current resources to assist you as we navigate the new normal in our practices.

As of December 20, 2020, the following states are permitting dentists to **administer the COVID-19 Vaccine:** Arkansas, Idaho, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Oregon, and West Virginia. The following states are allowing dentist to **administer the Influenza Vaccine:** Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Oregon, and West Virginia. States that allow dentist to **perform COVID-19 testing or order COVID-19 testing:** Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington, West Virginia, District of Columbia, Georgia, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, South Dakota. For members that live in any of these states please visit your specific State’s website regarding detailed information on any of these procedures. For information about the “priority” of healthcare workers for receiving the vaccination, review your state’s COVID-19 Vaccination plan.

There are two emergency use authorized (EUA), at home, over-the-counter diagnostic test kits for COVID-19.

**The Ellume COVID-19 Home Test Kit-** a rapid antigen test; requires a nasal swab specimen; recommended for age 2+; for symptomatic and non-symptomatic use; used with a phone app; Cost is approximately \$109.

**The BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Home Test Kit-**a rapid antigen test; Prescription required; nasal swab specimen; for use within the first 7 days of onset of symptoms; recommended for age 15+ and age 4-14 with an adult collected specimen; Cost is approximately \$25.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has a wealth of resources that speak specifically to protocols that should be used in our practices. When the providers of healthcare get sick, they cannot work and provide key services for their patients and clients, so it is going to be important as healthcare providers to maintain an optimal level of health throughout this pandemic. Getting vaccinated and educating our communities about the vaccine will play a pivotal role in the mitigation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 Vaccine importance for healthcare workers:

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/hcp.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/hcp.html)

CDC recommendations of Vaccination Plans for healthcare workers:

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/vaccination.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/vaccination.html)

Building confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines Toolkit:

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/health-systems-communication-toolkit.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/health-systems-communication-toolkit.html)

When Vaccines are limited who gets it first?

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations.html)

Hand Sanitizer proper use, storage, and products that should not be used:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtIPiuTZaU&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtIPiuTZaU&feature=youtu.be)

[www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-updates-hand-sanitizers-consumers-should-not-use](http://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-updates-hand-sanitizers-consumers-should-not-use)

Updated ventilation improvements and tactics:

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/ventilation.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/ventilation.html)

CDC Update-Aerosol vs Airborne vs Droplet Transmission & Protection-Henry Schein

<https://go2.henryschein.com/uXe000VDKi0m0s02DkaDUF0>

#### **Discussion on mRNA:**

The history behind, and the technology behind the mRNA Vaccine for COVID-19. (Robert Drummond, MD, PhD)

<https://youtu.be?WXfUzjYSvnc>

Immunity to SARS-CoV-2 via mRNA Vaccine (Robert Drummond, MD, PhD)

<https://youtu.be/NFfLz4EXibs>

#### **Additional important resources:**

Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness information and application:

[www.hometreasury.gov/system/files/136/PPP-Forgiveness-Factsheet-58.pdf](http://www.hometreasury.gov/system/files/136/PPP-Forgiveness-Factsheet-58.pdf)

[www.sba.gov/document/sba-form-paycheck-protection-program-loan-forgiveness-application](http://www.sba.gov/document/sba-form-paycheck-protection-program-loan-forgiveness-application)

This past week has been very busy in our country, we witnessed the roll out of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, which is a 2 dose (21 days apart) shot recommended for age 16+. The Moderna Vaccine received EUA from the FDA on December 19, 2020. This vaccine is approved for ages 18+ and requires 2 doses. A \$900 Billion COVID-19 Relief Package was also passed this weekend, which will include an extension of the small business Paycheck Protection Program. Another \$20 billion will be allocated for small business grants. In the next few months, we will see several more companies producing and getting COVID-19 vaccines approved for use, all in an effort to produce herd immunity, and return to our pre-COVID-19 lifestyle or some semblance thereof.

Oral health care is safe and essential. It is very important, for the patients that we treat, to continue their routine oral health care appointments to prevent severe health issues from arising. Research is still indicating that less than 1 % of dentist have contracted Coronavirus and there have been no local cases of transmission in a dental office. I salute our conscientious members for continuing to provide exemplary infection control and service. We know that there is light at the end of the tunnel, but we will not see that light without continuing to educate ourselves and our communities. Please continue to refer to [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) and [www.ndaonline.org/nda-coronavirus-psa](http://www.ndaonline.org/nda-coronavirus-psa) for the most up to date information. Stay safe!

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