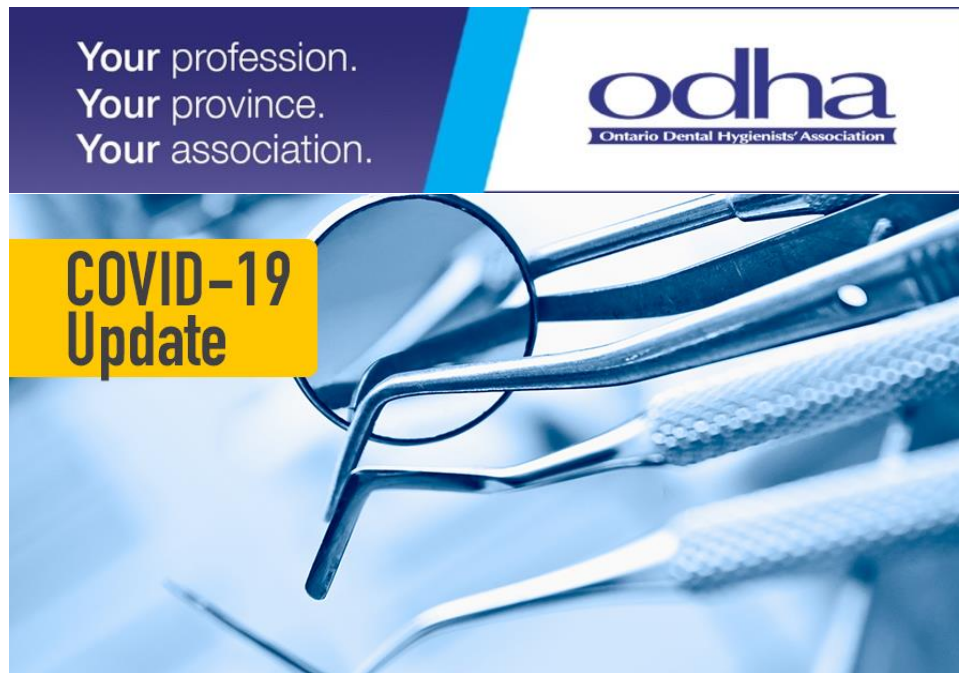


June 1, 2020 Update

SUBJECT: Updated RCDSO guidelines



The updated return to practice guidelines issued by the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario (RCDSO) on May 31st may have you feeling confused and uncertain. The College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario (CDHO) did not receive advance notice of potential changes to the RCDSO IPAC guidelines, and ODHA, like its members, did not learn about these changes until today from various communications.

ODHA continues to be in communication with the regulatory bodies providing a voice for Ontario dental hygienists to address your comments and concerns. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the regulatory bodies to work together to find common ground, if possible, and provide return to practice guidance all oral health professionals can implement and execute successfully as a team. ODHA's goal would be evidence-informed guidelines providing a safe and efficient practice setting for both staff and clients. [CDHO](#) has advised it will notify dental hygienists if any changes are made to its return to practice guidelines.

Understanding there is anxiety and concern, ODHA encourages members to work together and either start or continue conversations with your oral health team about returning to practice. If you have concerns, express them while offering to be part of the solution. It's evident a positive, collaborative effort by all oral health professionals, while following guidance, is required to ensure the gradual and safe re-opening of practices in Ontario. Ultimately, dental hygienists in Ontario are obligated to follow CDHO's regulatory requirements.

ODHA also reminds members resources such as Legal-Line and employment Q&As are available to address individual practice questions or concerns.

To increase accessibility, COVID-19 email communications will be posted on the [COVID-19 update page](#) on the ODHA website.