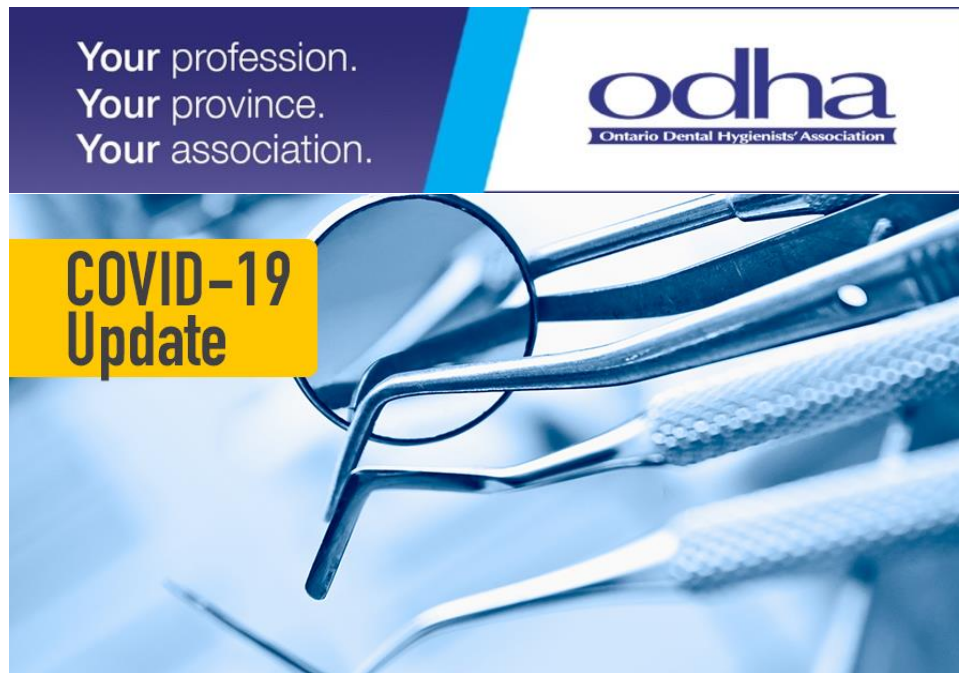


June 5, 2020 Update

SUBJECT: Addressing RCDSO and CDHO return to practice guidelines, plus more



Addressing the RCDSO and CDHO guidelines

With plans underway to restart dental and dental hygiene practices and the release of revised Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario (RCDSO) IPAC guidelines, it is clear there is concern in the profession – not only about the changes but also the significant differences between the RCDSO and the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario (CDHO) guidelines. It is ODHA's understanding CDHO is waiting to hear from Public Health Ontario about the pertinence of the current differences between the two guidelines. In the meantime, ODHA has requested an urgent meeting with RCDSO to explore the rationale for the changes in their guidelines in order to better understand the impact of those changes and express the concerns of Ontario dental hygienists. ODHA understands this is an incredibly stressful and anxious time for many, but rest assured we are advocating, as always, to the extent of our mandate to provide a strong voice for Ontario dental hygienists.

Each and every dental hygienist has different personal circumstances to consider when contemplating a return to work. It is not possible to cover all of the potential scenarios in one dissertation – this is why we encourage you to use your member benefit [Legal-Line](#) and to access the Piccolo Heath LLP [website](#) and [blog](#) for informative employment law posts. Members may be interested in the latest post, dated [June 5](#), explaining the announcement earlier this week updating COVID-19 layoffs in Ontario to leaves of absence.

PPE advocacy letters

Some members have asked ODHA to lobby the government and advocate for supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) for return to practice. There are many professions, some government-funded, also looking to access sufficient PPE to open their

businesses and practices. ODHA is not encouraging members to send a mass template letter to government officials, rather if you feel the need to write a letter to your local MPP, an individual, personalized letter may be more effective and have a greater chance of being reviewed and considered over a mass template letter, where a name is the only differentiating part. ODHA continues to advocate for members with the regulatory colleges and with the provincial government and will continue to do so on this and all other scope of practice concerns affecting Ontario dental hygienists.

Survey reminder

The Ontario government [Economic impacts of COVID-19 survey](#) closes **June 12, 2020**. A reminder to independent dental hygienists the government is seeking feedback about the economic impacts COVID-19 is having on your business and your community. Your feedback will help the Ontario government develop a plan for economic recovery. The survey takes around five to 10 minutes to complete. You can access the survey [here](#).

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