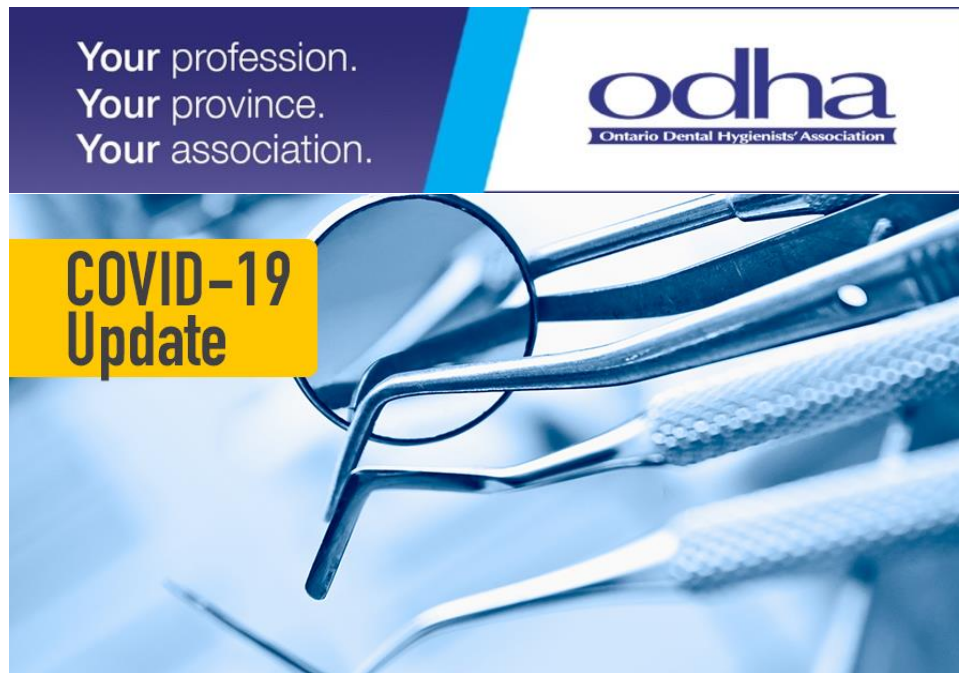


June 9, 2020 Update

SUBJECT: Provincial update, IPAC guidelines, Health Canada recall, plus more



Provincial government update

On June 8, 2020, the Ontario government [announced](#) it would be moving forward with a regional approach to Stage 2 of re-opening the province. The government is easing restrictions in communities where it is safe to do so, based on trends in key public health indicators.

Effective Friday, June 12, 2020, the limit on social gatherings will increase from five to 10 people across the province. The ODHA office is located in Halton region which did not receive approval to re-open. ODHA staff will continue to support members working remotely as they have since mid-March until restrictions in Halton are lifted. Email continues to be the best form of contact – info@odha.on.ca.

Addressing the RCDSO and CDHO guidelines

ODHA continues to advocate for Ontario dental hygienists amidst the concerns about IPAC guidelines. ODHA participated in collaborative meetings leading up to the initial set of principles released May 15, 2020 by all the oral health regulatory colleges and associations. Although ODHA does not have decision-making authority in the development of standards and guidelines, the association has provided the voice for Ontario dental hygienists. With the release of updated guidelines on May 27, 2020 by CDHO and May 31, 2020 by RCDSO, ODHA has had conversations with both regulatory bodies and is encouraging the RCDSO and CDHO to work together with the goal of finding common ground that provides a safe environment for all oral health professionals and clients.

In addition, ODHA is scheduling a meeting with the Ontario Dental Association (ODA). This meeting will include ODHA President, Maheen Cassim, RDH, ODHA President

Elect, Carrie Vondrau, RRDH, and ODHA Executive Director, Margaret Carter. The purpose of this meeting will be to address workplace issues including infection prevention and control.

ODHA is working hard for members and providing the voice to the Ontario government, the regulatory bodies and the media. We will continue to advocate for Ontario dental hygienists.

Health Canada recall alert

Health Canada is advising Canadians certain hand sanitizers are being recalled from the market because they contain industrial-grade ethanol not authorized for use in hand sanitizers in Canada. The public is asked to stop use and contact a healthcare professional if affected products have been used or if there are health concerns. A full list of affected products can be found [here](#).

New long-term care program for health professionals

George Brown College has announced a new postgraduate online program to help improve quality of care in complex and long-term care (LTC) settings, amid growing calls for systemic changes to be made to LTC in Ontario.

Launching this fall, the *Interprofessional Complex and Long-Term Care program*, developed in collaboration with Ontario Centres for Learning, Research & Innovation in Long-Term Care (CLRI) at Baycrest and Ryerson University, represents a unique approach to health-care education, aimed at providing health-care professionals with evidence-based, collaborative training for optimal care of Ontario's growing senior population. Learn more about the program [here](#).

Webinar: Mental health

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) is offering a free webinar on June 24, 2020 – *Traditional Indigenous Approaches to Mental Health and Well-Being of Health-Care Providers Supporting First Nations During the COVID-19 Pandemic*. The webinar will cover self-care strategies to support positive mental health and well-being during COVID-19, using Indigenous and Non-Indigenous practices. Learn more and register for the webinar [here](#).

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