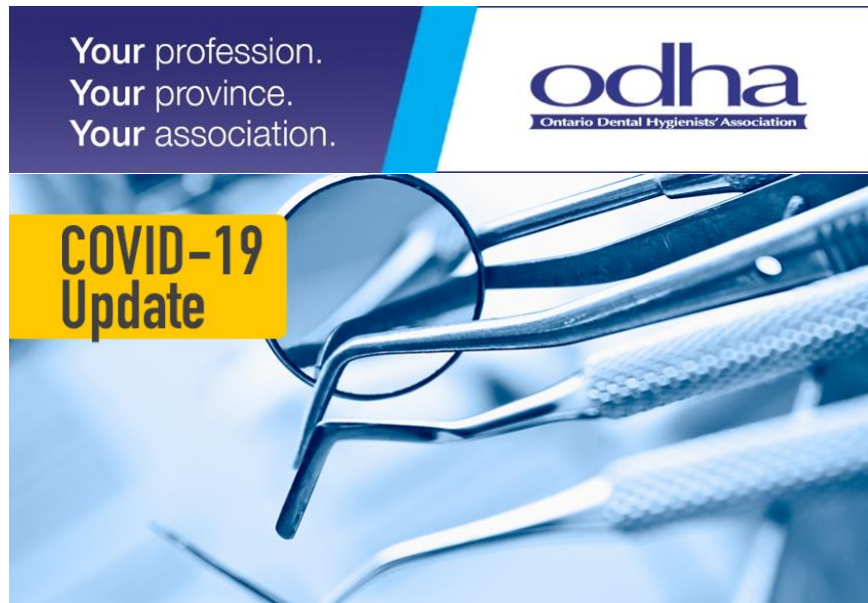


October 15, 2020 Update

SUBJECT: COVID-19 update: Recent cases in dental service settings



First, and foremost, we hope this email communication finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy.

ODHA is aware of a few cases of COVID-19 reported in dental service settings. Although this may be concerning to some, it is important to understand with community spread of COVID-19, we will see cases of infection in all workplace settings. However, it will not necessarily mean the infection originated within the workplace.

It is important to note these recent cases do not provide much information to protect personal health information. It can be expected circumstances surrounding individual cases of COVID-19 will not be disclosed to the public. Without knowing facts, it can be easy to make assumptions.

We encourage you to not participate in online rumours and social media discussions fueling fear and promoting panic amongst members of the public and within the profession. No information has been released to suggest any of the COVID-19 cases in the dental service setting were a result of oral health procedures.

To help mitigate risk, the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario has provided proactive recommendations for dentists practising in the higher risk areas identified by the Government of Ontario. You can view the recommendations [here](#).

Ontario dental hygienists should continue following the [infection prevention and control guidelines](#) outlined by the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario.

ODHA continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic closely and will communicate facts and evidence based information to members as we always have.

Refer to the ongoing updates on the ODHA [COVID-19 update page](#) to stay informed.