

**April 22, 2021 Update**

**SUBJECT: COVID-19 update: Directive #2, revised PHO guidelines, and more**



We trust you have received communication from the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario (CDHO) providing clarification on [Directive #2](#) reissued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health on April 20, 2021. In case you missed it, the following information was communicated:

*The Ministry of Health Emergency Operations Centre provided clarification with regards to the scope of the April 20, 2021 Directive #2 confirming services performed by dental hygienists in the community **are not** impacted.*

Continue to follow [practice guidance](#) and [infection prevention and control guidelines](#) outlined by the CDHO.

**Public Health Ontario revised guidelines**

Public Health Ontario has released revised [Interim Guidance for Infection Prevention and Control of SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern for Health Care Settings, April 2021](#).

This document provides interim guidance for how infection prevention and control (IPAC) practices in Ontario health-care settings should be modified in light of the emergence of B.1.1.7 in Ontario, and the potential for the emergence of other known or as yet unknown variants of concern.

**Emergency child care for oral health professionals**

On April 15, 2021, the provincial government [announced](#) frontline workers will have access to emergency childcare for their school-aged children as of April 19 because schools have moved to remote learning. This service will be available at no cost to eligible parents.

Working with the ODHA, the Ontario Dental Association has confirmed with the Ministry of Education and Minister's office directly that **dentists and the dental team are eligible**. This includes regulated health professionals and unregulated staff directly or indirectly working in health-care delivery. To qualify, only one parent needs to be eligible. Children aged 44 months (four years) to 13 years enrolled in school may access emergency childcare.

The Ministry of Education recommends oral health professionals contact their Consolidated Municipal Service Manager or District Social Services Administration Board within their communities. To access the list of service system managers, please [click here](#).

### **Building confidence in vaccines**

Public Health Ontario recently released [Building Confidence in Vaccines](#). This document highlights best practices, communication tips, and a curated list of key resources to help build the public's confidence in vaccines. Dental hygienists may find the information and discussion points helpful when speaking with clients about vaccines.

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