



District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

June 2020, Vol. 66, No. 6



Dr. Steven A. Guttenberg

Letter from the DC Dental Society President Steven A. Guttenberg, DDS, MD

“Parting is such sweet sorrow...”

Juliet to Romeo, Act 2, Scene 2

William Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet, 1594

It has been an honor to serve as your president. But as the year comes to an end, the reality for me is akin to what Shakespeare wrote 426 years ago.

This past year has been unique. Confronted with the most serious pandemic any of us has encountered in our lifetimes, the Society was forced to alter the way we did business. For the first time in the history of the Society, face-to-face committee meetings and monthly meetings were replaced with online conferences. Live lectures were replaced with live webinars. The candidates-for-office forum and the subsequent election for officers and the board of directors were accomplished virtually. The annual year end Awards dinner and celebration had to be canceled and replaced as a video get-together.

We all learned about “Zoom” and many applied the technology to meeting with friends and family in addition to attending educational webinars and Society assemblies, high school and college graduations.

And for the first time in our professional careers, we were forced to essentially close our offices, stop treating our patients and furlough staff members.

It would be an understatement to merely write that this has been a challenging year. It has been a year that has been personally and financially tragic for all of us. The good news is that, like all other hardships our nation has endured, we will come back.

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Welcome New Member

Dr. Albana Simoni received her dental degree in 2015 from University of Missouri-Kansas City . She completed her graduate program at the Swedish Medical Center. She is currently completing a Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Resident at MedStar Washington Hospital Center.



DCDS Election Results

The DC Dental Society 2020 election closed at noon on June 2. Thanks are extended to everyone who participated in the election. Participation was significantly higher than in recent years. Election results were announced during a virtual meeting the evening of June 2. Also during the meeting, President Steven Guttenberg transferred his position to Dr. Ladan Basiri, installing her as president of the DC Dental Society for the 2020-2021 year. Coming in the July issue will be a profile on President Basiri.

Please join us in welcoming:

- Dr. Pierre Cartier – President-Elect
- Dr. Anna Bettios – Vice President
- Dr. Gene Giannini – Treasurer
- Dr. Sally Cram – Secretary

Board directors for the 2020-2022 term:

- Dr. Kim Menhinick
- Dr. Luke Schwartz
- Dr. Clare McGorry
- Dr. Hillary Hochman

A special thank you to all candidates who participated in the election. Your dedication to the Society is greatly appreciated.

An aphorism first delivered by German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche (not singer Kelly Clarkson) in 1888, states that “what doesn’t kill you, makes you stronger.” I strongly believe that sentiment. The American media company, U.S. News & World Report, does not rank us as the best job of any of the health professions for nothing. Although it will not be easy, we will make a complete recovery and come back better than ever.

As difficult as this year has been for the Society, success would not have been possible without the deliberate and focused effort of your officers and board of directors. We can all be proud of the work that was accomplished to present another Symposium for Licensure and excellent monthly continuing education opportunities. The Board attended nearly every meeting of the DC Board of Dentistry to act as a voice for our membership. When the pandemic became a reality there was no roadmap to follow. Your Board created the path to create success out of what could have been utter failure.

So, the sweet part of my term coming to an end is that I get back about 10 hours a week of free time. My wife, who has been incredibly understanding of my responsibilities to the Society, will nonetheless be pleased to have more of my attention.

The sorrow is that I will truly miss the camaraderie and collegiality of working with such a wonderful group of officers and board members. I offer them my most sincere thanks. You should recognize each of them for their time and efforts on your behalf.

And finally I know that there will be a void in my life by not chatting or emailing with our Executive Director, Kurt Gallagher numerous times nearly every day. It was up to the Board of Directors, to construct ideas to benefit the Society and it was the responsibility of Kurt and his staff (Andrea, Andres and Tonya) to bring them to fruition. They did a great job.

Thank you very much for the privilege of having been your president.

Parting is such sweet sorrow.

Sincerely,



Steven A. Guttenberg, DDS, MD

DCDS President

D.C. Begins Phase One of Reopening

[Mayor Bowser's order](#) includes the following provision for "Phase One Operation of Health Care Providers":

Healthcare providers may continue to offer, or resume offering, services, including:

- outpatient or other surgical procedures in the District that will not unduly burden hospital capacity or COVID-19 related resources. Guidance on allowable Phase One procedures is provided by DOH.
- hospital capacity or COVID-19 related resources. Guidance on allowable Phase One
- procedures is provided by DOH.

DC Health provides "[Guidance for Universal Masking and Healthcare Personnel Monitoring, Restriction and Return to Work](#)." We we have requested clarification from the Board of Dentistry if there is any additional guidance from DC Health at this time.

DC's ReOpen DC Advisory Group Steering Committee recently issued recommendations for [Human Services, Social Services, and Health](#), including dentistry. A summary of the recommendations for the first three phases of reopening is as follows.

Recommendations for Human Services, Social Services, and Health

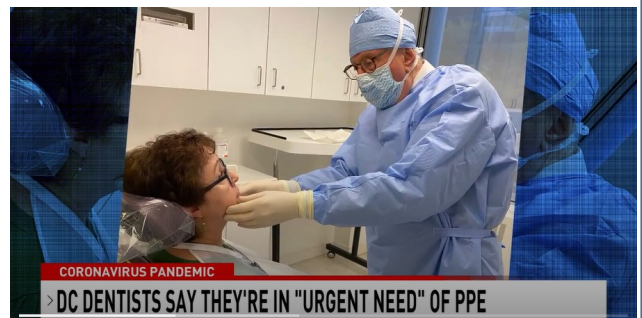
SUBSECTOR	REOPEN STAGE 1	REOPEN STAGE 2	REOPEN STAGE 3
Health centers, independent/private and group practices (including dentistry), ambulatory surgical centers, and dialysis centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue alternative care models when clinically appropriate • Prioritize care by urgency and necessity of face-to-face care • Address essential pediatric and maternal care, providing preventative care in the safest way possible • Prioritize procedures that minimize adverse patient outcomes associated with delayed care and with minimal transmission risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue alternative care models when clinically appropriate • Prioritize procedures that minimize adverse patient outcomes associated with delayed care and with minimal transmission risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of Stage 2 guidelines and safeguards

President Guttenberg and Executive Director Gallagher Appeared on ABC7 Calling for PPE for Dentists

DC Health Promises PPE

After appearing on WJLA ABC7 to raise awareness of the need for PPE among DC dentists, we received confirmation from DC Health that the agency will provide PPE to DC dentists. In a May 28 letter sent to all dentists licensed in DC, Sharon Lewis, Senior Deputy Director, Health Regulation and Licensing Administration of DC Health announced that the agency will provide a PPE Starter Kit to all DC licensed medical personnel containing "N95 or equivalent masks, surgical masks and face shields." Quantities of PPE and method of distribution was not specified in the letter.

Thanks to all DC Dental Society members who wrote to Mayor Bowser and DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency Director Rodriguez. Your support helped to make this achievement possible.



President Guttenberg and Executive Director Gallagher were featured in ABC7 story on the need for PPE among DC dentists.

[View ABC7 Interview](#)

FDA Names 27 Coronavirus Antibody Tests No Longer be Sold

(Reuters) - The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Thursday identified 27 coronavirus antibody tests that should no longer be sold in the United States, following up on new regulations meant to weed out dubious tests and players that had entered the country under loose rules set in March.

That original policy required vendors only to notify the agency that they intended to sell the tests in the country and to self-certify the tests worked. Reuters reported that the policy had opened the market to fraud and lawmakers had pushed the FDA to change it.

[Read Full Article](#)

CDC's Updated Guidance For Dental Settings Closely Aligns With ADA Guidance

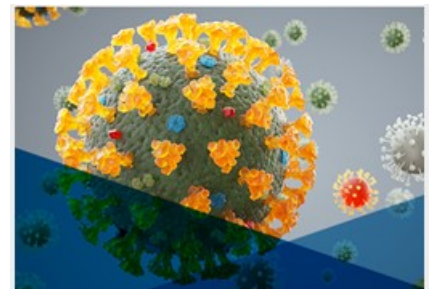
The [ADA News](#) (6/2, Burger) reports that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued on May 19 “updated interim infection prevention and control [guidance](#) for dental settings during the COVID-19 response,” which echoes the ADA’s “science-based guidance issued earlier in May.” The article reports that “the ADA welcomed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s updated guidance,” which closely aligns with the ADA’s [Return to Work Interim Guidance Toolkit](#). “The guidance from the ADA and the CDC give dental professionals the information they need to practice as safely as possible,” said ADA President Chad P. Gehani. “I am pleased to see dental practices reopening to provide patients with the dental care they need. The safety of patients, dentists and dental team members has been and always will be ADA’s utmost concern.” The article outlines the CDC and ADA recommendations.

The ADA had urged the CDC to “quickly provide guidance” on how to safely reopen dental practices during the deceleration phase of the COVID-19 outbreak in a May 6 [letter](#) to CDC Director Robert R. Redfield, MD.

Steps to take if a patient reports COVID-19 exposure after treatment

Finding out that a patient or close family member has tested positive for COVID-19 after their dental appointment can be a cause for concern for you and anyone in the practice who may have interacted with the patient during the appointment. [This document](#) will help guide you through what you should do if someone in your practice tests positive for COVID-19.

Find more resources to help dentists through the COVID-19 pandemic at [ADA.org/virus](https://ada.org/virus).



HPI Webinar Shares COVID-19 Poll Data

The [ADA News](#) (6/2, Carey) reports that the ADA Health Policy Institute held a webinar on May 28 to examine “data shared by thousands of dentists through the polls HPI has been conducting every two weeks since March to see how dentists are doing during the COVID-19 pandemic.” During the webinar, which is on the [ADA YouTube channel](#), HPI Chief Economist and Vice President Marko Vujicic discusses what the third week of reopening dental offices looks like, focusing on topics such as how much personal protective equipment dentists have available, rehiring staff, and how consumers feel about dental visits.

This webinar is part of an ongoing series. Watch this webinar and previous discussions on [ADA's YouTube channel](#). Subscribe to receive information on new videos as they are released.



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Find These and Other Resources from the ADA on the COVID-19 Pandemic at [ADA.org/virus](https://ada.org/virus)

Get the Return to Work Interim Guidance Toolkit

Is your office ready to see patients for non-emergency appointments?

As some states move to reopen, the **ADA's Advisory Task Force for Dental Practice Recovery** has developed this free toolkit with interim guidance which recommends measures to take to help protect patients, staff and dentists from COVID-19 as dental practices re-engage in providing the full range of oral health care.

The toolkit includes:

- Sample letter to patients
- Guidance on pre-appointment screening
- In-office patient registration procedures
- Reception area preparation strategies
- Chairside checklist
- Staff protection strategies
- Supplies shopping list

The COVID-19 pandemic and our knowledge of the disease is constantly changing, so the toolkit will be updated as we learn more.

Find more guidance, digital events and the latest on COVID-19 and dentistry at [ADA.org/virus](https://ada.org/virus).

Together, we're one dental community.

[View More Information Here](#)

COVID-19 Hazard Assessment

Guide and checklist help evaluate COVID-19 transmission risks in your practice. The ADA's Advisory Task Force on Dental Practice Recovery provided considerations to implementing COVID-19 hazard assessments in dental settings. Please follow the link to learn more.

[View More Information Here](#)



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Deadlines:

The Newsletter is distributed on the first Wednesday of every month. Ads are due to the Society two weeks prior to the publication date.