

Alaska total cases: 387
 US total cases: 1,417,512
 World total cases: 4,440,989



CHAP Weekly Update

May 15, 2020

Dental Care During COVID-19 Pandemic

People have limited options for dental problems. Some dental clinics are open for emergency care only; others are slowly starting to open; travel is restricted in some regions.

What Can Health Aides Do?

Continue to use the tools you have:

- Teach good tooth brushing and flossing
- Use disclosing tablets
- Apply Fluoride to teeth



Good teeth brushing and flossing are important, especially during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Cavities

Talk to your regional dentist about using Silver Diamine Fluoride.

- Silver kills the bacteria
- Helps with tooth pain and sensitivity and stops the cavity from getting larger
- Easy to apply
- Caution: stains the cavity (black)
- Caution: stains skin, clothes or counters (black)



Protect Yourself While Providing Dental Care

Follow droplet precautions when applying Silver Diamine Fluoride:

- Surgical mask or N95
- Eye protection: goggles or face shield
- Gloves, gown

Always follow regional guidelines if different from above. Remember – always wear a mask for any patient care!



Everyone smiles in the same language. ~ *Author Unknown*

Problems with Dental Care During COVID-19 Pandemic

- Coronavirus found in saliva
- Saliva spatters and particles aerosolize



Dental care is high risk for both patients and providers.

What Can Patients Expect?

Dental providers will wear full PPE – covered from head to toe – for all procedures.

Tips for making this less scary for your patients:

- Prepare them before hand.
- Show them pictures of the provider without PPE, partial PPE and full PPE so they can see it is the same person.



Continuing Education



Remember: You can get CE for the weekly teleconferences! Check out all of the CE options available at AKCHAP.org

Save the Date

Next Session: May 20 at 12:10; Drs. McLaughlin and Zink from the Alaska State Department Of Health COVID-19 Response Team



Thanks to Dr. Sarah Shofstall-Cone, DDS, MPH from the ANTHC Department of Oral Health Promotion

