



Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Ensuring Continued Trust

BULLETIN

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TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

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SARS UPDATE

The College has just received information from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) regarding compliance by all health-care providers with the SARS outbreak control measures. This information can be accessed from the links below.

- **Letter to all Ontario Health Care Providers – June 3, 2003**
All health-care providers must follow the provincial directives issued on SARS.
- **SARS Communiqué – June 3, 2003**
Enhancement to SARS outbreak control measures
- **Potential SARS exposure sites – June 2, 2003**

The SARS outbreak control measures and other detailed information about procedures to use in your dental office are outlined in the Bulletin from the College on May 14th in a document called Directive to Ontario Health Care Providers in Community Settings and Community Health Care Agencies from the SARS Provincial Operations Centre (POC). This document can be accessed from the link at the end of this bulletin.

Highlights of the SARS outbreak measures are:

- Patients should be screened by telephone using the questions as listed in the SARS screening tool when booking or confirming appointments.
- Front desk staff should wear N-95 masks when conducting screening in the dental office using the SARS screening tool.
- Patients under quarantine should only be seen in the dental office in co-ordination with public health authorities for the treatment of true emergencies. See the link to RCDSO Bulletin – May 12, 2003 at the end of this bulletin.
- Other patients failing the screening tool must have a medical assessment for SARS. See the link to RCDSO Bulletin – May 12, 2003 at the end of this bulletin.

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- Staff who know that they will fail the screening tool must not come to work until assessed medically and found to be free of SARS.
- SARS notices should be posted in the dental office.

The SARS POC advises that SARS outbreak control measures will remain in effect, unless otherwise directed, until public health authorities lift the outbreak. The College will post this information on our Web site as soon as we receive this notice from authorities.

For further information:

- **RCDSO Bulletin - May 12, 2003**

Explains the application of the SARS screening tool in the dental environment and details the recommended infection control protocols for patients.

- **RCDSO Bulletin – May 14, 2003**

Contains the Directive to Ontario Health Care Providers in Community Settings and Community Health Care Agencies.

- **Summary of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) cases: Canada**

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgsp/sars-sras/prof_e.html

- **Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Workers in Outpatient Settings: SARS**

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgsp/sars-sras/prof_e.html

Any questions?

If you have any further questions, please contact:

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