



Royal College of  
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

*Ensuring Continued Trust*

# BULLETIN

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TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

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## SARS - NEW DIRECTIVES FROM MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE ABOUT ENHANCED ROUTINE PRECAUTIONS AND PRECAUTIONS IN EVENT OF ANOTHER OUTBREAK

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has released a series of new information bulletins that update previous information. These directives took effect on Monday, June 16, 2003.

As these documents are extremely lengthy, links to these new directives are listed below:

**Directive to Ontario health-care providers in community settings and community health-care agencies**

**Directive to all Ontario non-acute care facilities**

**Directive to all health-care facilities in Central and Eastern Ontario**

**Case definitions (Health Canada and Ontario)**

MOHLTC requires all health-care providers in community settings, and community health-care agencies, including dentists, physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, midwives, allied health professionals, and those whose activities are directed by the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, to undertake the procedures outlined in the directives.

The College will continue to share any other information about SARS and other communicable diseases that we receive from the Provincial Operations Centre as it becomes available. It will be posted as soon as possible on our Web site at [www.rcdso.org](http://www.rcdso.org).

*(continued)*

**For the emergency dental treatment of patients under SARS quarantine, the College recommends the following:**

1. Only patients with treatment needs that cannot be delayed should be seen. This would mean infection or pain that cannot be controlled by pharmacological means, hemorrhage or trauma.
2. The patient could be screened in the dental office to determine if an aerosol generating procedure was required.
3. **Non** aerosol generating procedures can be carried out in the dental office using infection control measures as indicated elsewhere in College Bulletins.
4. If aerosol generating procedures are required the patient must be treated in a room with air management capability as per Health Canada Guidelines. In most cases dental offices are not equipped to meet this requirement. Therefore a hospital referral would be necessary. Public Health officials can advise the appropriate hospital for this purpose. Appropriate transportation methods must be used and the dentist should advise the hospital of the treatment required and supply any diagnostic information (medical history, x-ray, etc.) to assist in the patients care.

**Any questions?**

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