



Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Ensuring Continued Trust

BULLETIN

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TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

MAY 28, 2003

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR DENTISTS IN THE GTA RELATED TO NEW CLUSTER OF POSSIBLE SARS CASES

The SARS Provincial Operations Centre (POC) of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has just advised the College that dental offices in the Greater Toronto Area, that includes Toronto, York Region, Durham Region, and Peel Region, should now implement SARS outbreak control measures.

These measures, the SARS screening tool 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 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.
- 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.

(continued)

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.

- **RCDSO Bulletin - May 26, 2003**

Lists potential exposure sites for which quarantine measures have been implemented.

- **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?

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