

# COVID-19 Obligations for Ontario Dentists

For more information on IPAC obligations refer to the College's IPAC FAQs

## ACRONYMS

- **AGP:** Aerosol Generating Procedure
- **AIIR:** Airborne Infection Isolation Room
- **IPAC:** Infection Prevention and Control
- **PHO:** Public Health Ontario
- **PPE:** Personal Protective Equipment
- **RCDSO:** Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario

TOPIC	UPDATED REQUIREMENTS	SOURCE DOCUMENT	FORMER REQUIREMENTS
<b>Patient screening</b>	<p>Patients are to be screened for signs and symptoms of infectious disease (including, but not limited to, COVID-19)</p> <p>Dentists can determine preferred screening protocol</p> <p>Results of active screening and any positive screening results are to be recorded in the patient's record</p>	<p><a href="#">RCDSO Standard on Infection Prevention and Control, 2018</a></p> <p><a href="#">PHO: Summary of Infection Prevention and Control Key Principles for Clinical Office Practice</a></p>	<p><b>RESCINDED</b></p> <p>Patients must be screened using the <i>Ministry's COVID-19 screening protocol</i></p>
<b>Signage</b>	<p>Signage is to be posted requesting that individuals who are ill or experiencing symptoms of any illness identify themselves to the receptionist (not specific to COVID-19)</p>	<p><a href="#">RCDSO Standard on Infection Prevention and Control, 2018</a></p> <p><a href="#">PHO: Summary of Infection Prevention and Control Key Principles for Clinical Office Practice</a></p>	<p><b>RESCINDED</b></p> <p>Post signage in common areas outlining office policies for patients and visitors <i>related to COVID-19</i></p>

TOPIC	UPDATED REQUIREMENTS	SOURCE DOCUMENT	FORMER REQUIREMENTS
PPE requirements for reception / screening	Reception (not involved in preliminary screening): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No PPE requirements<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>		<b>RESCINDED</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum ASTM level 1 procedure mask</li> <li>• Physical barrier recommended</li> </ul>
	For staff performing preliminary screening (with or without direct patient contact), the following precautions are recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remain behind a barrier; <b>or</b>,</li> <li>• Maintain a distance of at least 2 m from the individual being screened; <b>or</b>,</li> <li>• Wear a medical mask (minimum ASTM level 1), gown, gloves and eye protection.</li> </ul>	PHO: <a href="#">IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19 (Oct 2022)</a>	<b>RESCINDED</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum ASTM level 1 procedure mask</li> <li>• Physical barrier recommended</li> </ul>
Patient masking	Patients who screen / test <i>negative</i> for COVID-19 are not required to wear a mask		<b>NO CHANGE</b>
PPE recommendations for the treatment of patients who screen / test <i>negative</i> for COVID-19	Routine practices	<a href="#">RCDSO Standard on Infection Prevention and Control, 2018</a>	<b>RESCINDED</b> <p>Non-AGP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASTM level 2 or 3 procedure/ surgical mask</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection: goggles or face shield</li> <li>• Isolation gown (optional)</li> </ul> <p>AGP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N95 respirator (fit-tested, seal-checked), <a href="#">or the equivalent, as approved by Health Canada</a></li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection: goggles or face shield</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Masks recommended if within 2m of a patient who has screened or tested positive for COVID-19

TOPIC	UPDATED REQUIREMENTS	SOURCE DOCUMENT	FORMER REQUIREMENTS
Treatment of patients who screen / test <i>positive</i> for COVID-19	Recommend deferring care unless urgent or emergent	<a href="#">RCDSO Standard on Infection Prevention and Control, 2018</a>	<b>NO CHANGE</b>
PPE recommendations for the treatment of patients who screen / test <i>positive</i> for COVID-19	Upon arrival: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide medical mask if tolerated and not contraindicated</li> <li>• Maintain 2m distance</li> <li>• Place patient in room with door closed, where possible</li> </ul>	PHO: <a href="#">IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19 (Oct 2022)</a>	<b>RESCINDED</b> Patient must don a mask <b>NO CHANGE</b> Place patient in room with door closed, where possible
	For <u>all</u> in-person care, including AGPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fit-tested, seal-checked N95 (or equivalent),</li> <li>• eye protection,</li> <li>• gown, and</li> <li>• gloves</li> </ul>	PHO: <a href="#">IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19 (Oct 2022)</a>	<b>NO CHANGE</b>
Use of gowns	Patients who screen / test <i>negative</i> for COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine practices</li> </ul>	<a href="#">RCDSO Standard on Infection Prevention and Control, 2018</a>	<b>RESCINDED</b> Non-AGP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isolation gown (optional)</li> </ul> AGP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isolation gown required</li> </ul>
	Patients who screen / test <i>positive</i> for COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isolation gown recommended for in-person care</li> </ul>	PHO: <a href="#">IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19 (Oct 2022)</a>	<b>RESCINDED</b> Isolation gowns required

TOPIC	UPDATED REQUIREMENTS	SOURCE DOCUMENT	FORMER REQUIREMENTS
AGPs for COVID-positive patients (operative requirements)	None		<p><b>RESCINDED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid AGPs</li> <li>• Use the lowest aerosol-generating options</li> <li>• AGPs must be performed in an enclosed operatory</li> <li>• Use rubber dam with high-volume suction</li> </ul>
Enclosed operatories	<p>No longer required.</p> <p>PHO <i>recommends</i> the following for COVID-19 positive patients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• patients with suspect or confirmed COVID-19 be cared for in a single room, whenever possible;</li> <li>• an airborne infection isolation room (AIIR) or a single room with the door closed be used for AGMPs involving patients who are suspect of confirmed COVID-19 positive.</li> </ul>	<p>PHO: <a href="#">IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19 (Oct 2022)</a></p>	<p><b>NO CHANGE</b></p>