



**Iowa Dental Board Guidelines for the Safe Transition Back to Practice
Frequently Asked Questions, #3
5/15/20**

Question: Can reusable half facepiece respirators be used in lieu of an N95?

Yes. One example can be found [here](#).

Question: The guidelines say to postpone appointments for patients who have had potential exposure to COVID-19 unless the patient needs emergency dental care. What does “potential exposure” mean?

Potential exposure means your patient has had close contact with a COVID-19 positive patient. Close contact would encompass members of a COVID-19 patient’s household, co-workers who worked in close proximity with the COVID-19 patient, and healthcare providers who are caring for a COVID-19 patient.

Question: Are goggles permissible instead of face shields?

No. Goggles do not function as a face shield. Goggles offer eye protection. A face shield protects the eyes and the rest of the face.

Question: Are hair and/or foot coverings required?

While they are a good best practice, they are not a board requirement at this time.

Question: Do you have recommendations on what an office manager should wear for PPE?

All office staff should wear a face mask while in the office. A gown is not required for non-clinical staff, but long sleeves are recommended.

Question: Is it OK to wipe down chairs and shields with antibacterial soap and water?

Clean and disinfect the room and equipment according to the 2003 Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings. This includes the following:

- Clean and disinfect room surfaces promptly after completion of clinical care.
- Ensure that environmental cleaning and disinfection procedures are followed consistently and correctly.
- Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures (e.g., using cleaners and water to clean surfaces **before** applying an EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant to frequently touched surfaces or objects for the appropriate contact times as indicated on the product's label) are appropriate for SARS-CoV-2 in healthcare settings, including those patient-care areas in which aerosol-generating procedures are performed.
 - Refer to [List N](#) on the EPA website for EPA-registered disinfectants that have qualified under EPA's emerging viral pathogens program for use against SARS-CoV-2.
- Manage [laundry](#) and [medical waste](#) in accordance with routine procedures.
- Clean and disinfect all reusable dental equipment used for patient care according to manufacturer's instructions and facility policies.

Question: Many disposable gowns can be laundered and reused. This would still be okay as long as the gowns are still in good condition, I assume?

Yes.

Question: Are there any prohibitions related to students observing/assisting as part of their course of study?

If students have the proper PPE they may observe/assist as part of their education program.

Question: If no local suppliers have PPE, how can offices be able to truly comply?

Offices must come into compliance with board guidelines or they cannot be open.