

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners
March 19, 2020, 10:00 AM CDT

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM CDT.

Board Members and Administrative Staff Attendance

Greg Evanoff, DDS, President	Otto Dohm, DDS
Alison Fallgatter, DDS, President-Elect	Mike Goebel, DDS
Michael Keim, DDS, Immediate Past President	Rita Sommers, Executive Director
Tim Mehlhoff, CPA, Secretary-Treasurer	Tara Brandner, Assistant Attorney General
Bev Marsh, RDH	Jacinda Simmons, Administrative Assistant

The purpose of this meeting was to review a draft regarding recommendations intended to be disseminated to the dental community and provided to the public at large. The Board addressed minor amendments to the statement and the addition of links to the ADA and the CDC and the Department of Health. Following discussion and concerns addressed by the members of the Board, it was moved by Dr. Fallgatter to accept the statement as amended, Dr. Goebel seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Keim, yes; Evanoff, yes; Marsh, yes; Mehlhoff, yes; Goebel, yes; Dohm, yes; Fallgatter, yes. Motion carried, 7-0. The statement was unanimously adopted as follows:

“The North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners recognizes the unprecedented circumstances dental professionals face due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which is causing shortages of personal protective equipment and creating an increased risk of infection for both dental patients and practitioners. The Board is closely monitoring actions taken by other states regarding the practice of dentistry and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and North Dakota Department of Health. While the Board does not have the statutory authority to mandate the closure of dental offices across North Dakota, in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 and ensure personal protective equipment is available for healthcare professionals on the frontline of the pandemic, the Board is providing the following recommendations to North Dakota dental practitioners:

The North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners encourages dental practitioners within the state, to discontinue providing routine, non-essential, and elective procedures through effective March 19, 2020, at the end of the business day, through April 4, 2020. This recommendation coincides with guidance issued by both the [Center for Disease Control](#) and the [American Dental Association](#). Among other guidance, the American Dental Association has clarified [routine, non-essential, and elective procedures](#). Dentists should continue to monitor and comply with any future federal directives as well as any requirements mandated by the State of North Dakota and its [Department of Health](#) related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

During this time all practitioners must continue to provide patients emergency care. Providing emergency care means more than just providing patients access to phone number or another healthcare institution but rather to facilitate the emergency care. Failure to provide the appropriate emergency contact information or emergency care for your patients of record may result in disciplinary action.

Information is changing rapidly at both the national and state level. Please continue to frequently monitor the Board’s website as any updates to recommendations will be posted as soon as available. The Board recognizes and appreciates the long history of compassionate care provided for the benefit of North Dakota citizens and encourages all dentists to extend urgent care beyond that of their own patients of record when circumstances might make it necessary and helpful.”

Moved by Dr. Fallgatter to adjourn, seconded by Dr Goebel. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Sommers, Executive Director

Tim Mehlhoff, CPA, Secretary-Treasurer