EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY – CEASE ALL NON-EMERGENCY DENTAL HYGIENE TREATMENT

This afternoon, March 27, 2020, new measures under the current Public Health State of Emergency in Alberta due to COVID-19, were announced by Premier Jason Kennedy:

Close contact businesses, including hair salons and barbershops, tattoo and piercing studios, esthetic services, as well as wellness studios and clinics and non-emergency and non-critical health services provided by regulated health professionals or registered professionals including dentistry, physiotherapy, massage, podiatry, chiropractic and optometry services are to immediately cease operations.

Dine-in restaurants will no longer be able to offer dine-in service. Take-out and delivery services will continue to be available.

Non-essential retail services that fall into the categories of clothing, computer and gaming stores, and services in shopping malls and shopping centres such as hobby and toys, gift and specialty items and furniture.

Additionally, attendance at any of the above businesses is prohibited.

A more complete list of affected businesses is available online.

Any business or organization not following the public health order will be subject to a fine. Courts have the power to administer fines of up to $100,000 for a first offence and up to $500,000 for a subsequent offence for more serious violations. Individuals aware of any businesses violating these orders should submit a complaint online immediately.

Dental hygienists and dental hygiene practices who continued to operate despite the CRDHA’s previous strong recommendation to cease providing non-emergency treatment MUST NOW CEASE PRACTICE until further notice.

Mass gatherings are now limited to 15 people, with 2 metre distancing to be observed.

As a regulated healthcare professional, if you are aware of breeches of these restrictions by other regulated health professionals, you have a duty to inform, both via the above online complaint process and to the relevant regulatory college.