

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Dentists Prepared to Treat Patients**

**OKLAHOMA CITY (April 24, 2020):** The safety of patients, staff and our community has been and continues to be the top priority for dentists across our state. We have been working diligently to provide safe emergency dental care to Oklahoma citizens during the COVID-19 crisis in order to prevent dental emergency room visits. This has curtailed our ability to provide disease control, specialty care, and additional oral health care that would enhance the overall health of our patients and prevent the deterioration of certain systemic diseases.

As healthcare professionals, dentists and dental team members routinely practice the highest sterilization and infectious disease prevention and mitigation standards set forth by the Center of Disease Control (CDC), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), and the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry. The American Dental Association (ADA) and the Oklahoma Dental Association (ODA) has been working with these federal and state organizations on the safety guidelines around COVID-19. These organizations have issued guidelines for dental settings and can be found on their websites:

- [CDC Guidance](#)
- [OSHA Guidance](#)
- [OSDH Guidance](#)
- [ADA Guidance](#)

“It is essential Oklahomans have access to safe and immediate dental care, or risk compromising their overall health and unnecessarily overcrowding our already overburdened emergency rooms with dental concerns that could be treated in the dental office,” said Dr. Paul Maullasseril, ODA President. “Dentists in Oklahoma are governed by the [State Dental Act](#) which requires us to follow CDC Guidelines. We take those guidelines seriously every day – not just during a pandemic – to protect our patients, our team members and ourselves. We are procuring the proper PPE and all necessary safety measures are in place. Any information you may have received to the contrary is wholly inaccurate.”

Oklahoma dentists are ready to see their patients per Governor Stitt’s executive order.

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### **About the Oklahoma Dental Association:**

The Oklahoma Dental Association, founded in 1907, has a membership of more than 1,600 dentists, which represents over 80% of the licensed dentists in Oklahoma. The Association was established to help foster an awareness of the obligations and responsibilities of the dental profession to society, to help advance the art and science of dentistry, and to promote public health and health services in the State of Oklahoma. For more information about the ODA, visit [www.okda.org](http://www.okda.org) and to find a dentist, visit <https://findadentist.ada.org/>.

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