

Michigan Dental Association

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 23, 2020

Zoom Videoconference

<u>Executive Order 2020-17</u>	2
<u>Open Discussion</u>	3
<u>Task Force on Reopening Dental Offices</u>	1

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Andrea Sundermann, CAE, Director of Continuing Education
Brandy Ryan, MBA, PHR, SHRMCP, Director of Human Resources
Craig Start, MBA, LIC, MDAIFG President

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Gingrich at 9:00 am.

TASK FORCE ON REOPENING DENTAL OFFICES

President Gingrich recently appointed a task force to develop a plan to help dentists restart their practices. According to the *Committee Operating Manual*, a defined scope and financial resources for a task force must be developed and approved by the Board.

31 The task force has met twice and has appointed subcommittees so that several areas can be
32 worked on simultaneously. At its last meeting ADA staff and Dr. John Molinari attended to
33 provide information on PPE and infection control. The task force hopes to have an easy to
34 follow opening plan available by May 1 so that members can have a plan in place when they are
35 able to fully open their practices.

36
37 MDA conducted a return-to-practice survey of its members and approximately 1,700 have
38 completed the survey to-date. It is clear that members are in agreement with MDA addressing
39 this issue.

40
41 The following was unanimously adopted as amended:

42
43 **1-42320** Resolved, that the MDA Board of Trustees approves the creation **Adopted**
44 of a task force on reopening dental offices, and be it further **As Amended**

45
46 Resolved, that the goal of the task force is to develop a plan to help
47 dentists restart their practices and ensure that every visit to the
48 dental office is safe as possible for the community, patients, dentists
49 and the dental team, and that plan may be used to educate the public
50 and advocate to decision-makers that the practice of dentistry is as
51 safe as possible, to once again see patients on a regular basis.

52
53 **EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-17**

54 Governor Whitmer issued Executive Order (EO) 2020-17 on March 20. This is the EO that
55 restricts health providers to performing only essential/emergency services. This EO has an end
56 date that is linked to the state of emergency declaration. In other words, EO 2020-17 stays in
57 effect until the emergency declaration is ended.

58
59 The emergency declaration serves many purposes, one of which is to draw money from the
60 federal government. As a result, the emergency declaration could stay in place a long time. This
61 then makes EO 2020-17 persist with no end date in sight.

62
63 The Governor has specific end dates for other orders and the MDA is not clear how those dates
64 were determined. It is expected that she will extend the stay at home order for a short period
65 of time and plans to make the announcement on April 24.

66
67 At this time, the MDA does not have a specific date when dentists should be able to fully open
68 their practices, but believes that discussions should be held with other health provider groups
69 to gain information and perspective.

70
71 MDA is aware that the American Dental Hygienist Association is petitioning for the continuation
72 of postponement of elective and non-urgent dental visits due to concerns for proper PPE and to
73 make sure that the office is able to practice safely for the dentists, dental team and public. As

117
118 Dr. Margaret Gingrich stated that she has heard from some members that they have received
119 the EIDL loan or have received confirmation that they will be receiving the loan. An action alert
120 was sent to encourage the government to provide additional funding. Many members will want
121 to know how these funds should be used and how the process will work so they can avoid any
122 issues with the IRS.

123
124 *PPP Loan*

125 Ms. Burgess noted that an article in the New York Times stated that many banks are prioritizing
126 service to large well connected organizations eligible for the PPP. There is concern that dentists
127 are not receiving any consideration for these loans and would be interested in knowing if any
128 dentists have received this loan. MDA continues to advocate for the inclusion of 501c (6)
129 organizations for the PPP loan.

130
131 *Webinar*

132 As there is much false information being reported, a suggestion was made that the MDA
133 consider holding a webinar with Dr. John Molinari to discuss the virus and how it spreads. Dr.
134 Marie Fluent did a webinar recently on infection control and is a member of the task force.

135
136 Dr. Molinari had informed the task force that he believes more information will be available in
137 the next 3-6 months as the virus is currently in the red zone. In the next 6-12 months the virus
138 should be in the yellow zone with treatments, vaccinations and test kits. It will be 12-18 months
139 before dentistry will be able to practice with PPE and infection control as in the past. Dr.
140 Molinari is not an advocate for testing at this time due to the validity of the tests available.
141 There is no known case of the virus being transmitted through a dental office.

142
143 **NEW BUSINESS**

144 There was no new business.

145
146 **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned by President Gingrich at 9:48 am.

147
148
149
150 Margaret Gingrich, DDS
151 President

Clayton Shunk, DDS
Secretary/Treasurer

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