



**Revisions to the Iowa Dental Board Guidelines
for the Safe Transition Back to Practice
Frequently Asked Questions, #4
12/9/20**

Question: Why were these revisions made?

The revisions to the guidelines are minor and are intended to provide clarity and additional flexibility to offices.

Do I have to make changes to my office procedures based on these revisions?

If your office already requires facemasks and conducts screening for all staff, patients and their visitors, then no other changes to your office procedures are mandatory – beyond ensuring that you are aware of the updated CDC guidelines outlined in the document. The additional revisions in these guidelines provide your office with alternatives to certain requirements but are not required.

Question: What are the primary changes to the revised document?

We have posted a marked-up version of all revisions so that you can easily identify each change. The most substantial changes are:

1. Added a definition of aerosol generating procedures for clarity (Section B).
2. Amended CDC guidelines and references that have been updated (throughout the document).
3. Clarified that patients and their visitors must be prescreened and screened upon arrival. All visitors to the office must wear a facemask (Section D).
4. Eliminated the requirement for full PPE for a parent or guardian who is accompanying a patient to the treatment room (Section E.3). A facemask must still be worn.
5. Eliminated the requirement for a respirator to be worn during a rubber cup polish. A level 3 surgical mask and full face shield is required (Section E.4).
6. Clarification that DHCP must wear facemasks at all times in the dental setting (Section F.1).

7. Deleted the requirement that respirators can only be worn for 48 hours. The revised guidelines defer to the [IDPH PPE Shortage Order](#) to be consistent with reuse of PPE for all other healthcare providers (Section G.7.iv). While your office can opt to continue using 48 hours of reuse for a respirator as a general guide, the IDPH PPE Order provides additional provisions for extended use of PPE. Sections 2 and 3 of the IDPH PPE Order provide this information. The IDPH PPE Order can be found [here](#).

8. Clarified that gowns are required for aerosol generating procedures only and must be changed after each aerosol generating procedure (Section G.7.d).

Question: When is a respirator required?

The only change that has been made regarding respirators are as relates to polishing. If your office wishes to continue wearing respirators during polishing, you may opt to do so.

Question: Can a surgical mask be reworn?

The PPE Shortage Order provides details regarding reuse of masks. This document should be reviewed in full. The IDPH PPE Shortage Order can be found [here](#).

Can I continue reusing my respirator for 48 hours, as a general guide?

Yes. The [IDPH PPE Shortage Order](#), Sections 2 and 3 specifically, provides additional parameters for reuse of PPE. Practitioners should use professional judgement in implementing extended use of PPE.

How are visitors defined in Section D?

Any patient and their visitor (someone who will be accompanying the patient to their appointment) should be both pre-screened and screened upon arrival for their appointment. Individuals making deliveries to the office do not constitute a visitor and do not need to be screened but should wear a facemask.