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T.Nagar, Chennai-600017.

ADVISORY TO IOS MEMBERS

In the background of the WHO declaring the outbreak of **CORONA VIRUS (COVID 19)** a pandemic, and the imminent outbreak in India, the IOS management committee has compiled the following guidelines for the benefit of the members of the Indian Orthodontic Society .

WHILE GIVING APPOINTMENTS ON PHONE OR IN THE FRONT OFFICE TRAIN YOUR STAFF TO RULEOUT :

- Fever
- Coughing
- Dyspnoea /Shortness of breath
- Myalgia and fatigue

Please use the form attached for screening your patients

- **INDIVIDUALS WITH 'POSSIBLE' OR 'CONFIRMED' COVID-19**
- Do not treat for routine dental care and defer treatment until clinical resolution.
- Same protocol to be applied for contacts of a confirmed case .
- Asymptomatic individuals who have travelled from **risk areas** can be treated by the dental team following standard infection control precautions.

DIAGNOSING PATIENTS WITH COVID -19

- A possible case of COVID-19 needs to meet both the clinical symptoms **AND** have a travel history, including travel to, or transit through (for any length of time), the identified risk countries **OR** contact with a **confirmed** case of coronavirus.
- Patients who are self-isolating for COVID-19 should not be brought into the practice premises.
- Suspected cases should be referred to a designated medical facility for confirmation and follow-up.



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CONTROLLING THE SPREAD OF COVID 19 IS ONLY POSSIBLE THOROUGH INFECTION CONTROL

Standard precautions

Use gloves, eye goggles, surgical masks and fluid resistant gown.

Enforce cough etiquette in your office.

Hand hygiene guidelines

- Apply WHO's my 5 movements for Hand Hygiene approach.
- If hands are NOT visibly soiled (i.e. the majority of instances), the use of a 70-90% alcohol-based hand rub is the preferred method of hand hygiene.
- If hands are visibly soiled (including with powder from gloves) or after performing body functions then hands should be washed with plain or antimicrobial soap and running water.

Observe standard Sterilization protocols in office and visiting practices.

Disinfection of surfaces with water, detergent and disinfectants such as sodium hypochlorite.

Disinfection of models, impressions and other specimens.

MANAGING THE RISKS IN DENTAL PRACTICE

- Please make sure patient information posters (**provided by IOS**) are displayed so they can be seen **before** patients enter the premises. Patient information should also be displayed at reception, waiting areas and at patient access points to clinical areas.
- Patients with an acute respiratory illness should be identified and placed in a single-patient room with the door kept closed.
- Offer a disposable surgical mask to persons who are coughing; and provide tissues and no-touch receptacles for used tissue disposal .
- Adhere to respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette infection control measures at the first point of contact with any potentially infected person.

STAFF WITH THE DISEASE

- Staff experiencing influenza-like-illness (ILI) (fever with either cough or sore throat, muscle aches) should not report to work.



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DECONTAMINATION AFTER ATTENDING A SUSPECTED PATIENT

- Once a possible case has been transferred from the dental office, the room where the patient was placed should not be used, the room door should remain shut, with windows opened and the air conditioning switched off until it has been cleaned with detergent and disinfectant.
- If a suspected case spent time in the waiting area or toilet facilities, then these areas should be disinfected immediately.
- All waste from suspected contaminated areas should be removed from the room and quarantined until patient test results are known (this may take 48 hours).
- if the patient is confirmed to have COVID-19 further advice should be sought from the local health protection team.

ATTENDING AND ORGANIZING CDE PROGRAMMES/COURSES /WORKSHOPS

- Members are requested to exercise discretion in attending functions and programmes with large gatherings.
- Study groups and organizers of are also requested to exercise caution in conduct of such programmes. The precautions we take might contribute significantly to the control of spread of COVID 19 virus which would be crucial in the coming weeks.

WISHING YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES HEALTHY DAYS AHEAD!

Hon. Secretary
Indian Orthodontic Society