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**Teledentistry Can Help New York State Dentists Reopen and**

**Comply with Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Dentistry**

**Metuchen, NJ – June 2nd, 2020 –** On May 31st, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that New York dentists would be able to open statewide on Monday, June 1st. However, all New York dental offices will be subject to following the state’s “Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Dentistry” directions on best practices for safety and social distancing. Those guidelines can be [downloaded here](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/DentistryMasterGuidance.pdf).

One of those guidelines is a strong recommendation for dental practice owners to implement teledentistry, which is stated as such: “Responsible parties should consider teledentistry options where appropriate for non-emergency consultations to potentially minimize in-office care according to the CDC guidelines and OSHA recommendations.”

According Brant Herman, Founder and CEO of MouthWatch, LLC, “Teledentistry can make it easier for New York dentists to comply with a wide variety of mandated guidelines related to physical distancing, which includes limiting gatherings in enclosed spaces, safeguarding workplace activity, and restricting the movement of individuals in the dental office.”

In all of these cases, person-to-person contact can be minimized and sometimes eliminated by using teledentistry for virtual patient consultations and virtual clinician collaboration. Both scenarios can be conducted live or recorded for later viewing and treatment planning.

Another main requirement of the “Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Dentistry” is the implementation of strict policies regarding the use of personal protective equipment or PPE. The CDC has developed an online calculator to help estimate the cost of PPE. [Click here](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/burn-calculator.html) to use the PPE burn rate calculator.

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“The new normal of dentistry requires higher levels of PPE for infection prevention, which are difficult to obtain and are more expensive for all dentists, including those in New York,” says CDC consultant and practicing dentist, Dr. Margaret Scarlett. “Teledentistry can help improve access to care for dental patients due to backlog and dramatically preserve PPE for in-person oral care. In turn, this preserves and reduces the cost of PPE by enabling many in-person patient encounters to be easily converted into virtual patient encounters.”

Another area explained in detail “Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Dentistry,” is the need for stringent cleaning and disinfection procedures after in-person dental care. Current interim CDC dental guidelines recommend 15 minutes prior to any cleaning of operatories after patient care. “Teledentistry can reduce the time and expense required for disinfecting operatories by once again, replacing many in-office consultations with virtual consultations,” added Dr. Scarlett. “Patients will also appreciate the convenience and peace of mind, as well.”

“Following the New York State precautionary guidelines will also result in dentists being able to see far fewer patients per day than in the past, said Herman” “In some cases, they may be limited to treating one patient per hour per practice.” Teledentistry can help offset this reduction in patient volume and also ensure access to care.”

For more information about comprehensive teledentistry solutions for a post-COVID-19 world, visit <https://www.mouthwatch.com/teledent-software/>.

 **About MouthWatch LLC:**

Headquartered in Metuchen, New Jersey, MouthWatch, LLC is a leader in innovative patient-friendly, clinician-focused teledentistry solutions, digital case presentation tools and intraoral imaging devices. The company is dedicated to finding new ways to constantly improve the dental health experience for both patient and provider. For more information, visit [www.MouthWatch.com](http://www.MouthWatch.com) .

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