Interim Mask and Face Shield Guidance

These recommendations align with existing CDC recommendations for patients without signs/symptoms of COVID-19.

It's always a good idea to conduct a hazard assessment before seeing patients. It can help identify and mitigate potential risks that may exist. Based on the results of the hazard assessment, using the level of PPE indicated in the chart is one way to reduce the risk of exposure. Of course, it's important to recognize that some risk is inherent in all scenarios. If masks with either goggles or face shields are not available, please understand there is a higher risk for infection.

It should be assumed that all patients may transmit COVID-19, given that individuals who are asymptomatic can still be infectious.

Mask Type – With Goggles or Face Shield (Understanding Mask Types)		Infection Risk***
	**N95**	Minimized
	**N95 EQUIVALENT MASK* KN/KP95, PFF2, P2, DS/DL2, KOREAN SPECIAL 1ST**	Minimized
	**Surgical Mask****	May be elevated depending on hazard assessment

**The FDA has authorized the use of masks equivalent to the N95 during the pandemic period. Manufacturers approved can be found here: https://www.fda.gov/media/136663/download*

***ASTM has established performance levels for surgical masks based on fluid resistance, bacterial filtration efficiency, particulate filtration efficiency, breathing resistance and flame spread.*

- *Level 1 masks have the least fluid resistance, bacterial filtration efficiency, particulate filtration efficiency, and breathing resistance.*
- *Level 2 masks provide a moderate barrier for fluid resistance, bacterial and particulate filtration efficiencies and breathing resistance.*
- *Level 3 masks provide the maximum level of fluid resistance recognized by ASTM and are designed for procedures with moderate or heavy amounts of blood, fluid spray or aerosol exposure.*

****The level of risk to DHCP depends in part on the generalized infection level in the community.*

Professional judgment should be exercised when considering the use of gowns, foot covers and head covers.

These guidelines are intended to help dental practices lower (but not eliminate) the risk of coronavirus transmission. Dentists should also be aware of any relevant laws, regulations, or rules.