



Oklahoma

Dental Hygienists' Association

April 29, 2020

This is a statement approved by the Oklahoma Dental Hygienists' Association Executive Board: Dental hygienists are eager to return to treating patients because we know that oral health is part of total-body health, especially in patients who have other systemic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, Alzheimer's, and many others.

As offices are preparing to reopen on May 1st, it is important that we have the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect the dental professionals and the patients that are entering the office, as recommended by the CDC, OSHA, and the ADA Interim Guidance document for dental professionals. We know that many dental offices have gone to great lengths to get the necessary PPE and other equipment that will protect their patients and their dental team. However, many offices have still not received the appropriate PPE and other recommended equipment, and it is unsafe for those offices to resume routine dental treatment at this time.

Holly Abbott, RDH, BS

On Behalf the Oklahoma Dental Hygienists' Association Executive Board