



July 24, 2020

To: South Carolina Dental Association (SCDA) Member Dentist

From: SCDA Board of Governors

The SCDA strongly urges all South Carolinians to protect each other and your healthcare workers from COVID-19. Since the beginning of this public health crisis, our organization has been committed to protect the health and welfare of all South Carolinians throughout this pandemic.

The recent dramatic increase in virus numbers, is putting so many of the citizens of this state and the country at risk. So many people who are infected may not recognize the symptoms that are contributory to the virus. Because of this, there is greater risk of passing the virus unknowingly to family, friends, and coworkers. This virus may not present with "flu-like" symptoms. It can manifest as a minor sore throat that lingers on or even as a persistent cough. We all must be on guard to protect ourselves and those around us.

No one knows better than healthcare workers the benefits of masks. We use them every day. Yes, they are inconvenient and uncomfortable, but masks are an essential part of our daily work. They have been shown, in multiple studies, to help significantly reduce the transmission of airborne disease. The SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is responsible for COVID-19, is an airborne disease transmitted from person to person in our breathing, coughing, sneezing, talking and our singing.

We appeal to you to help us and everyone you encounter by wearing an appropriate face covering mask. You have a choice to recognize the role you play in controlling the spread of this pandemic and protecting our state's health.

We wear masks every day, in and out of the office, for your protection and for ours. We urge you to do the same. Together we can control this virus and the deadly disease associated with it.