

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS



Board Officers:

Robert Michael Harkins, D.M.D., President
T. Delton Moore, Jr., D.D.S., Vice-President
Steven Mark Porter, D.D.S., Secretary

Board Members:

Frank L. Conaway, Jr., D.M.D.
Roy L. Irons, D.D.S.
Mark D. Williams, D.M.D.
Robert L. Smith, Jr., D.D.S.
Laura C. Richoux, R.D.H.

Chris L. Hutchinson, Executive Director

Telephone: 601-944-9622
Facsimile: 601-944-9624

Suite 100, 600 East Amite Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201-2801

Internet: www.dentalboard.ms.gov
E-Mail: dental@dentalboard.ms.gov

To All Mississippi Licensees:

On Wednesday, April 15, 2020, the MSBDE voted to extend the Health Care Mandate for Mississippi Dentistry THROUGH Monday, April 27th at 11:59 PM pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order No. 1470. This is a public health order that is mandatory and enforceable by law.

As a reminder, this mandate clearly states that all elective dentistry is to stop. Emergency or Urgent procedures to alleviate severe pain, dangerous swelling, or infection with the potential to necessitate hospital care are allowed. Additionally, the final cementation of crowns or the completion of work in progress that could result in harm IS allowable as urgent care. It is up to the judgment of the licensed professional which cases require emergency or urgent treatment. Clear, recorded justification of a patient's necessity for care and subsequent care is required. Mississippi Dentistry's ability to keep patients out of the hospital during this pandemic requires good judgment and conscientious care.

To reiterate, Only emergency or urgent care should be provided as follows: The following is a guide to what may be regarded as emergency or urgent procedures:

- severe dental pain
- swelling of gums, face, or neck
- signs of infection such as a draining site
- trauma to face, jaw, or teeth, including fractures
- pre and post-transplant, radiation, or bisphosphonate patients with oral symptoms
- referrals made by physicians or other health care providers of an emergency basis
- potential malignancy
- broken tooth
- ill-fitting denture of an urgent/painful nature
- final crown/bridge cementation if incompleteness could result in harm

Routine and/or elective procedures that should be ceased immediately, but are not limited to:

- routine orthodontics
- any cosmetic procedure such as veneers, teeth bleaching, or cosmetic bonding
- all routine hygiene appointments
- initiations of crowns, bridges, or dentures that do not address severe pain
- any periodontal plastic surgery
- extraction of asymptomatic, non-carious teeth
- recall visits for periodontally healthy patients

Additionally, the MSBDE voted, for the 2020 CDCA dental licensure examination, to approve the use of the CDCA's new Class II and Class III typodont teeth in a non-patient, manikin-based licensure examination. The Board also voted, for 2020 only, to eliminate the Periodontal Scaling portion of the examination.

Also, on this date, the MSBDE voted, for the 2020 ADEX/CDCA DH exam, to allow the typodont hand skills examination in lieu of the patient-based examination.

The Mississippi State Board of Dental Examiners will meet again on April 23, 2020 at Noon via teleconference to further address the needs of our licensees and patients.

As a reminder, each member of the Dental Board is in the same situation as every other practitioner, with the inability to see patients and lost income, and we are diligently seeking solutions. Please act in a way as to be a part of the solution and take every measure available to protect patients and aid in minimizing exposure to COVID-19.

Please continue to follow all CDC guidelines.

Respectfully,

Chris L. Hutchinson, Executive Director
MSBDE