

From the desk of Editor- in-Chief.....

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Coronavirus has spread worldwide panic. While the World Health Organisation (WHO) has already declared the situation as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, it's time for us to be very cautious in order to stay protected. Clearly, the best thing we can do right now is to not spread panic. Panic only worsens the situation and does not make it better in any way.

Despite global efforts to contain the disease spread, the outbreak is still on a rise because of the community spread pattern of this infection. This is a zoonotic infection, similar to other coronavirus infections, once in the human body this coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) is abundantly present in nasopharyngeal and salivary secretions of affected patients, and its spread is predominantly thought to be respiratory droplet/contact in nature. Dental professionals may encounter patients with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection and will have to act diligently not only to provide care but at the same time prevent nosocomial spread of infection.

In the light of WHO declaring COVID-19 virus to be pandemic, the Indian Dental Association recommends preventive measures for dental professionals like: Post a sign at the entrance to the dental practice which instructs patients having symptoms of a respiratory infection e.g cough, sore throat, fever; Reschedule appointments if your patients have travelled outside India in last two weeks; take a detailed travel and health history; Incorporate questions about new onset of respiratory symptoms; take temperature readings as part of routine assessment; take the contact details and address of all patients treated; Install physical barriers e.g glass or plastic windows at reception areas; use a rubber dam when appropriate to decrease possible exposure; Use high speed evacuation; Autoclave hand-pieces; Have patients rinse with 1% hydrogen peroxide solution before each appointment; clean and disinfect public areas frequently like door handles, chairs etc and Post visual alerts icon(e.g. signs and posters) at the entrance and in strategic places (e.g. waiting areas, elevators, cafeterias) to provide patients with instructions (in appropriate languages) about hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette. Instructions should include how to use tissues to cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, to dispose of tissues and contaminated items in waste receptacles, and how and when to perform hand hygiene.

I wish you all to stay proactive, informed, calm and to provide patient with the best dental care and be a part of public health emergency when we will be required.

*True prevention is not waiting for bad things to happen,
It's preventing things from happening in the first place!*

Your's:

Dr. Himanshu Aeran

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