



April 30, 2020

Dear Dental Hygienists of Massachusetts,

It is hard to believe that on March 17 that our world as dental hygienists would be so drastically changed. The Covid 19 Pandemic has touched our lives in so many ways. Some of us more than others. Dental hygienists are considered one of the highest risk professionals due to the high number of aerosols that we produce and are exposed to. For the safety of the dental team and the safety of our beloved patients we were told to hang up our instruments and go home. We watched the news and the world around us closing all professions deemed non essential. We watched nurses and doctors battling "an invisible enemy" facing and scrambling to secure the grossly important PPE that became scarce as they feverishly pleaded with Governor Baker for help. With the help of Robert Kraft and the Patriot's plane, Governor Baker was able to bring the much needed PPE to Massachusetts. We watched the numbers of cases and deaths rise. We have applied for unemployment in record numbers and saw financial hardships as some who were unable to receive it. We have watched our neighbors face the uncertainty of being able to afford to pay their bills and buy food. But we have also watched the many and beautifully uplifting spirit that we all possess shine. We have reached out to each other. Donating a meal to a friend we haven't met. Celebrating all the things in life from a safe distance and giving thanks.

Our world as hygienists has changed, but our spirit and caring nature burns bright inside us all. We must remain united. Empower yourself with knowledge, as knowledge is power. MDHA has been working closely with ADHA. As information becomes available we have sent it to you in email blasts and placed it on our website massdha.org. We have written letters to the governor and asked you to be a part of the many action campaigns to let Governor Baker know how you feel. In the weeks ahead as offices begin to re-open we ask that you continue to express your concerns to the governor for the safety of our patients and for the safety of the dental team. MDHA is here for you and we will continue to educate and advocate for you. Watch for upcoming details about our free webinar and please continue to check your inboxes for information and advocacy.

As hygienists, we must remain informed and resilient in order to adapt to the new ways of protecting ourselves and our patients while doing the work we love. I am more proud today than ever to be a registered dental hygienist.

"And once the storm is over you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure in fact whether the storm is really over. But one thing is for certain. When you come out of the storm you won't be the same person who walked in." Haruki Murakami

Stay healthy. Be Well.

Pamela LaCerte,

President MDHA

massdh.org

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>