



5/18/20

Massachusetts Dental Hygienists' Association has been working diligently, behind the scenes, spending countless hours advocating, uniting and empowering the hygienists of Massachusetts. We have written letters to Governor Baker and his Administration, to the members of the Board Of Registration In Dentistry (BORID) and the Attorney General. MDHA has had a multitude of Zoom meetings focusing on the many aspects of the Covid 19 pandemic. We have expressed your concerns about how we, as hygienists, are the most at risk occupation according to the Department of Labor. Your apprehensions related to shortages of PPE, aerosols contaminate and safety protocols have been conveyed to all, including during a recent meeting with the Massachusetts Dental Society. "The hygienists of Massachusetts deserve to practice at the highest standards of care in OSHA compliant offices that follow CDC guidelines."

The American Dental Hygienists' Association along with MDHA have organized several campaigns asking you to contact the Governor, your Senator, as well as your Congressman to share your concerns. These national campaigns flooded those offices resulting in thousands of hygienists having their voices heard. ADHA has recently sent out a action alert requesting hygienists to raise their voices once again concerning Hazard pay and increasing Worker Safety. I hope you all will participate and let Congress know we need to be a part of the HEREOS Act for hazard pay; tell them your concerns about PPE and the risks you will be facing.

A recent MDHA campaign lead by Sarah Crow reached out to all of the members of Massachusetts. Sarah Crow, Amanda Berthiaume, Nima Patel, Mary Ellen Widberg and Virginia Heroux lent an ear and listened to the dental hygienist of Massachusetts. It is because of that, and the hard work of Julie Cady, Sandra Nicholas, Sara Zeidenberg, guest panelists, Infection Control specialist Mary Govoni, Attorney Michael Heiner and MDHA Regulation and Practice Katherine Pelullo, that the amazing webinar sponsored by Hu-Friedy was able to address your concerns. (<https://www.greenlightcompliancecenter.com/s/COVID-19>).

We are here for you, but we can't do it alone. We need your help. Become a member today to help support dental hygiene professionals today and in the future. (www.adha.org)

Empower yourself with knowledge. Take what you have learned and be a leader in your office. Communication is key. Share it what you have learned with your fellow colleges and your employer. Knowledge is power.

Take advantage of the ADHA Interim Guidance for Returning to Work. This is a thorough and well thought out guide to help you do just that.

I would like to close with a quote from Tony Robbins "No one's life is a smooth sail; we all come into stormy weather. But it's the adversity and more specifically our resilience that makes us strong and successful."

Stay healthy. Be well.

Pamela LaCerte, RDH, President MDHA

Massachusetts Dental Hygienists' Association: massdha.org

American Dental Hygienists' Association: adha.org

Information on Covid 19: <https://www.adha.org/covid19>

Specific questions for ADHA can be sent to RDHCovidInfo@adha.net

Hu- Friedy: <https://www.greenlightcompliancecenter.com/s/COVID-19>

Board of Registration In Dentistry: dentistry.admin@state.ma.us

Center for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration: osha.gov/dental