



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

144 Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City
Trunklines: (+632) 927-6383; 927-5505
Email Address: itu@bjmp.gov.ph Website: www.bjmp.gov.ph



MEMORANDUM

TO : Regional Directors of the Jail Bureau
Provincial Jail Administrators
Wardens

ATTN : BJMP Dental Officers and Dentists

SUBJECT : BJMP COVID-19 Advisory # 30:
**GUIDELINES IN THE CONDUCT OF DENTAL MANAGEMENT/
TREATMENT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

DATE : 19 JUN 2020

1. References:

- a. Memorandum from the Philippine Dental Association re: Interim Guidelines on Infection Prevention and Control During the COVID-19 Pandemic 4.0 and 2.0 dated May 31, 2020 and April 22, 2020 respectively; and
- b. BJMP COVID-19 Advisory #5: Implementation of Absolute Lockdown in All Jail Facilities and Supplemental Guidelines dated March 19, 2020; and
- c. Presidential Proclamation No. 922 s. 2020.

2. The COVID-19 pandemic represents an unprecedented global public health crisis. SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, was thought to be spread primarily through respiratory droplets. Airborne transmission from person-to-person over long distance was initially not possible. However, the contribution of aerosols, droplets nuclei or spatters during dental procedure, although uncertain, but can be a possible mode of transmission. The virus has been shown to survive in aerosols for hours and on surfaces for days.

3. The practice of dentistry involves the use of rotary dental and surgical instruments such as handpieces, ultrasonic scalers, and air-water syringes. These instruments create a visible spray that contains large particle droplets of water, saliva, blood, microorganisms, and other debris. This spatter travels only a short distance and settles out quickly, landing on the floor, nearby operatory surfaces, and even on the clothing and/or exposed skin of the dentist and the patient. Surgical masks protect mucous membranes of the mouth and nose from droplet spatter, but they do not provide complete protection against inhalation of airborne infectious agents.

4. To manage the threat of continued risk of COVID 19 to public health, Dentists must take time to learn and stay updated with the latest trend in Dentistry, as printed in the webinar series of the PDA (<http://learn.webinar.pda.com.ph>).


5. The Department of Health (DOH) and Philippine Dental Association (PDA), recommend that all dental facilities to postpone elective procedures and non-urgent dental visits. Priority guidelines are as follows:

- a. Prioritize urgent and emergency visit only (life threatening cases) to protect dentists and other staffs.
- b. Strictly observe triaging protocols, to lessen cross-contamination
- c. Practice online consultation and evaluation before confirmation or setting an appointment. (Telemedicine)
- d. Observe less number of patients must be treated at a given time.
- e. Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be strictly followed and patient care, supplies and other needs such as air filters should be provided in every BJMP dental health facility during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. The **Interim Guidelines On Infection Prevention and Control during the COVID-19 pandemic period 4.0** will be sent through your respective email addresses for dissemination, and compliance.

7. For information.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF, BJMP


ARTHUR C LORENZO, MD
Jail Chief Superintendent
Director for Health Service