

COVID-19 – Overview of national measures affecting dentists in CED countries

Summary

Country	Order to close dental offices ¹	Recommendation to close dental offices	Emergency dental treatment provided	PPE shortage	Support for dentists/ health professionals	Support for citizens/employees
Albania						
Austria	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Belgium	No	Yes	Yes		No	
Bulgaria	No	Yes	Yes		No	
Croatia	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Cyprus	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Czech Republic						
Denmark	Yes		Yes			Yes
Estonia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Finland	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
France	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Germany	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Greece	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Hungary	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Iceland						
Ireland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Italy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Latvia	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Lithuania	Yes		Yes		No	Yes
Luxembourg	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Malta	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Netherlands	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Norway	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Poland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Portugal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Slovakia	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Slovenia	Yes		Yes			
Spain	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sweden	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Switzerland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
United Kingdom	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes

¹ For questions, please see page 13

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Detailed answers

Country	Dental practices	PPE shortage	Support for dentists/health professionals	Support for citizens/employees
Austria	Recommendation by Austrian Dental Chamber (supported by Health Minister) to reduce work in dental practices to emergency treatments.	Shortage reported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tax - Loans Possibility to reduce workload (and wages) for dental personnel between 90 and 10%. Chairside assistants get 85% of their net income anyway (financed by state).	Emergency funds for small enterprises including Dentists with income of less than € 50.000/year (before taxes): € 1.000 immediately, afterwards max. € 2.000/month for up to 3 months General funds for all Enterprises - concrete regulation still open
Belgium	The Chambre Syndicale Dentaire and the Belgian Dental Society published a recommendation on 19 March that only emergency cases should be treated. Dentists must take various safety measures (e.g. FFP2 masks).		Currently, there are no schemes for financial compensation for dentists/dental practices	
Bulgaria	The Bulgarian Dental Association recommends to drastically reduce treatments of patients and to only accept emergency cases.		Currently, there are no schemes for financial compensation for dentists/dental practices	

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Croatia	Emergency dental treatments are provided, with the use of maximum protective equipment.	Shortage reported.	There are still no special measures of financial support for health professionals but they do have access to general financial support issued by the government.	Measures of financial support issued by the government are available with the same conditions to doctors of dental medicine.
Cyprus	Dental practices are not closed, emergency treatment is provided – dentists assist patients by phone firstly and accept in-office treatments only in case of severe pain, abscess, fracture and bleeding.	Shortage reported. Only Public Health Services have limited PPE supplies.	Not for the time being.	Cyprus provides support to the citizens, although it is not clear yet if dentists are going to have access to some specific financial support. It is assumed that they will receive the same as other self-employed citizens.
Denmark	On 17 March, the Danish National Board of Health decreed that dental practices may only perform so-called "critical tasks", i.e. only treating emergency patients and finalize cases amidst treatment, until the end of June 2020.		General compensation schemes are available for which dentists also qualify.	Temporary compensation schemes for self-employed persons with a maximum of 10 full-time employees will be provided (until June). Self-employed persons who have experienced a drop in income of more than 30 percent due to the COVID-19 outbreak can be compensated.
Estonia	Dental practices are closed since 26 March 2020 by government decree. Dental emergencies are provided by a limited number of offices due to much reduced PPE availability.	Reduced availability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tax - Loans 	Dentists in Estonia have access to general financial support offered to employees. The government pays 70% of the salaries (max. €1000) and the employer pays €50 additional.

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Finland	On 17 March, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health gave practical guidance on preparedness of oral healthcare clinics during the coronavirus outbreak. This guideline included instructions about emergency oral health care. PPE shortages	Some shortage reported. Finland has now opened the National Emergency Supply Storage.	None.	The general financial support includes for example tax changes and loans. In case of unemployment or layoff allowance is disbursed.
France	On 16 March, "Conseil de l'Ordre" recommended postponing all dental treatments and admitting only emergencies in the dental offices during the COVID-19 outbreak.	Shortage reported.		Compensation has so far been provided for to a very small extent only. Social insurances pay €100 per month. Further compensations are to follow. However, these will be capped. On 17 March, the French Minister of Economics announced a one-time payment of €1,500 for freelancers, as well as reliefs in the payment of social security contributions and taxes.
Germany	In Germany the main competencies for health are assigned to the level of the Länder (regions) and there is no nationwide order for closure of dental practices in Germany (official closures are only in place for particularly affected	Shortage reported. There is a big problems in the supply of PPE and state aid has been announced. However, this will primarily go to the hospitals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tax - Loans There have been implemented some programmes meant to support small business of liberal professionals.	There's an emergency financial aid for micro-enterprises from all economic sectors, as well as for self-employed persons and members of the liberal professions with up to 10 employees. Up to € 9,000 one-off payment for 3 months

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	<p>districts). There are no dental chamber recommendations (except for recommendations at Länder/regional level). General recommendations have been issued by the German Dental Chamber.</p> <p>In the districts where regular dental treatment is prohibited, an emergency service must be set up by order of the authorities.</p>		<p>There are different measures on federal and/or regional level. An overview can be found here.</p>	<p>for up to 5 employees (full-time equivalents) and up to €15,000 one-off payment for 3 months for up to 10 employees (full-time equivalents) are provided, with some particular conditions.</p>
Greece	<p>For the private dental Practices, the Hellenic Dental Association launched a protocol of alertness on 12 March 2020. The academic institutions suspended both academic and clinical activities. Emergencies such as pain or abscess are accepted by dentists all over the country, in order to limit unnecessary patient travelling.</p>	<p>Shortage reported. There is a shortage of both conventional PPE and single-use items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tax - Loans <p>A compensation of €600 dedicated to digital continuous education activities for every dentist is under legislative process.</p>	<p>For the moment, dentists do not have access to general financial support offered to all citizens or employees.</p>
Hungary	<p>The National Chief Dental Officer banned all dental care except emergencies in Hungary since 17 March.</p>	<p>Shortage reported.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tax - Loans - Pension contributions 	<p>For the moment, dentists do not have access to general financial support offered to all citizens or employees.</p>

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Ireland	Emergency dental care will be provided until 12 April to comply with Government Advice. Emergency care only, triage, antimicrobial / analgesia and exceptional other emergencies; severe tooth pain, persistent heavy bleeding, tooth avulsion, extreme toothache.	Severe shortage reported. No PPE is being provided for private practitioners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tax There is a government provision of €350 for self-employed persons. However, this does not apply to older dentists over 66 years of age who are in receipt of a small state old age pension. There are ongoing practice cost to address.	The Government has issued a special COVID related unemployment benefit for those who has lost their jobs, or for the self-employed who have ceased their business, since the restrictions were introduced in mid-March.
Italy	Avoiding the overflow of the already stressed public hospitals, all the private professionals - in Italy 97% of dentists work in the private sector - have been asked not to close their practice, but to limit their work to emergency treatment. Safety measures have been taken to avoid the spread of the virus even further during these procedures.	Severe shortage reported across the country. Shortage is linked to the high demand from the Far East and the donations given to public hospitals by suspended activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pension contributions - Taxes - Loans The situation is still changing on a daily basis. Currently, auxiliary medical personnel and employees have received a partial suspension of pension contributions. The National Association of Italian Dentists (ANDI) is working to extend this measure to private practitioners too.	A minimum wage has been provided by the government, as for the rest of the private practitioners. ENPAM, the Italian social security institution for medical practitioners, has recently been able to integrate with private funds this state contribution.

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Latvia	Only emergency and acute dental care is provided in Latvia.	No shortage. There was a special direct flight from China delivering about one million surgical face masks and respirators for hospitals, GPs and dentists throughout Latvia. No special protective overalls for dental practices are available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tax - Loans 	There is a special downtime allowance (dīkstāves pabalsts) for Latvian employees including dental practice`s employees. Further, support is provided via taxes (reduction or delay of payments) and loans (reduction or delay of payments).
Lithuania	The quarantine has been announced in Lithuania since 16 March, providing only necessary treatment (in emergency cases) or treatment if the absence of treatment significantly worsens the patient's condition.		<p>Still not clear how and to what extent dentists can be financially compensated for the losses.</p> <p>Compensation is expected to be minimal.</p>	The State Tax Inspectorate has published on its website a list of taxpayers who are automatically eligible for aid measures, such as non-recovery of declared taxes, relief from tax arrears, and tax credits. These payers are subject to similar measures to facilitate the payment of state social security contributions.
Luxembourg	<p>On 7 March, the Luxembourg Ministry of Health instructed dental practices on how to deal with COVID-19 patients. Unnecessary treatment of such patients is to be postponed and necessary treatment is to be carried out only under observance of safety measures.</p> <p>On 16 March, all freelance healthcare institutions were instructed to carry out only urgent necessary treatments.</p>			

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Malta	Emergency services are provided. Guidelines have been issued to avoid aerosol inducing procedures and deal with acute emergency such as bleeding, swollen face and acute pain.	Shortage reported. Most private clinics don't have the proper masks and visors to be able to work properly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Taxes - Loans Delay in payment of taxes and national insurance of staff and dentist, banks are giving a 3-month moratorium or more on loans. The Maltese Dental Association are negotiating so that staff and dentist can get €800 per month since work is close to non-existent. This amount has been giving to those working in the arts, teachers, tourism industry but not yet to self employed professionals.	None.
Netherlands	The Royal Dutch Dental Association recommended closing dental practices from 16 March until 4 April with possible prolongation. Every region has one office entitled to provide emergency treatments for patients with no fever or COVID-19 symptoms.	No shortage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tax - Loans - Pension contributions 	For the moment, dentists do not have access to general financial support offered to all citizens or employees.
Norway	There are established specific clinics providing acute treatment for those with Covid-19 infection and for those who are suspicious of Covid-19 infection. These clinics have the necessary equipment to treat patients safely. Other clinics provide acute treatment.	Shortage reported. At the moment there is a lack of masks. This is the main problem for dentists.	An economical support from the government is established, but it will not cover all the expenses dentists experience. Dentists have to apply for a support from the government.	None.

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Poland	<p>On 25 March the Ministry of Health issued and made available guidelines regarding provision of dental services during the state of epidemic threat. Generally, limitation of the scope of dental offices' functioning was recommended. The scope of dental services provided as part of general primary care, should be limited to performing procedures necessary in the case of urgent intervention.</p> <p>In each region of Poland the local governmental authorities should establish a list of facilities where urgent dental treatment can be provided, which should be adequately prepared for it.</p>	<p>Shortage reported. Difficulties in ordering, longer than normally waiting time for delivery, higher prices. In addition, a special law related to the COVID-19 epidemic recently adopted by the Parliament entitles the Minister of Health to publish a list of medical devices which can be sold and supplied only to pharmacies and healthcare facilities, excluding individual practices of medical doctors and dentists. The Senate—following the Polish Chamber's requests – proposed to delete this limitation – the final decision of the Sejm (lower chamber of the parliament) is awaited.</p>	<p>The National Health Fund is to pay remuneration in advance for the work that will be carried out in the future (a kind of interest-free loan). This will however only cover those who have a contract with the Fund. As regard pension contributions, taxes loans support measures will be introduced as part of general financial support.</p>	<p>Such support measures for microenterprises are not yet implemented, but the Parliament is finalizing the special law on commonly referred to as "Anti-crisis shield". We will soon be able to analyse these measures and conditions that have to be met to receive some support.</p>

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Portugal	Dental practices are closed by government decree since 16 March to 31 March with possible extension. The Portuguese Dental Association did not recommend an ending date yet. Emergency dental treatments are provided for abscesses, cancer-related issues, patients with TMJ disorders, fractures, traumas, bleeding, acute periodontitis, etc.	Shortage reported. The shortage is mainly regarding masks (90%) and goggles, surgical gowns (50%).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pension contributions - Tax 	A recent decision granted access to general financial support offered to citizens and will be implemented further.
Slovakia	Emergency dental services are provided.	Shortage reported.	A governmental financial help package should be approved by Parliament on Wednesday 1 April, however it is not clear what this will entail for dentists.	If there is drop in income of dental practice during COVID-19, there will be a financial check for employees of the dental practice, the sum of which will be according to the revenue shortage.
Slovenia	Decree of the Slovenian Ministry of Health on pro-visional measures to control the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, ordering the closure of all dental surgeries in the country. Seven reception centres for emergency patients have been created nationwide, each of which has an outpatient clinic for healthy patients and a separate one for suspected cases.			

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Spain	On March 18 the Spanish dental association issued recommendations to close dental practices for an indefinite period of time. Dental emergencies, as defined by international associations are still being treated.	Shortage reported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pension contributions - Tax Each dentist or health institution will have to prove that they meet the legal requirements that are set out in the regulation, in order to access the support.	Some economic measures have been taken by the Spanish Government to defer the payment of taxes until the end of the alert situation.
Sweden	Dental offices are not closed. Emergency dental treatments are provided. If the decision is taken to provide emergency dental care to a patient The regions of Sweden are dental care providers. Some regions have decided to only provide emergency dental treatments, while others provide the same dental care as they did before COVID-19.	No shortage. At this point, it cannot be said that there is a shortage of PPE. However, some regions have decided to only provide emergency dental treatments, to save up/store protective equipment that might be needed in hospitals.	Nothing aimed specifically at dentists.	Dentists and dental companies have access to the general financial support offered to all citizens, employees and companies.
Switzerland	A federal decree specifies that emergency dental treatments can be performed from 16 March until at least 19 April. There is a shortage of PPE reported, with no masks being available and disinfection liquids running low.	Shortage reported. No masks are available and disinfection liquids running low.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loans For the time being, support for dentists and healthcare professionals is obtainable via loans at a 0% rate.	Dentists do not have access to general financial support offered to all citizens or employees in the context of COVID-19 crisis, however the Swiss Dental Organisation (SSO) is currently lobbying for a change.

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United Kingdom	<p>Within dental practices, only a telephone service can be provided, for advice and prescription of medication (analgesics and antibiotics, where appropriate). Patients should not come to the practice, and no clinical dentistry should be performed. The government is in the process of establishing 'urgent dental care services' which will be receiving patients with urgent dental needs. These practices or collaborative services should receive all the necessary PPE so that aerosol-generating procedures can be carried out.</p>	<p>The process has moved on to the establishment of urgent dental care services. These should be provided with the necessary PPE. The British Dental Association (BDA) cannot at the moment confirm whether or not there will be a shortage.</p>	<p>Financial support has been offered to practices working in the National Health Service (NHS). The support is not specifically aimed at covering the payments, it is more generally aimed at helping with practice costs, staff salaries and dentists' living expenses. Since many practices are mixed, it is not yet clear whether this NHS support will exclude dentists from other government support which is aimed at businesses more generally. The BDA is in discussions with government to clarify these issues.</p>	<p>Government has made available a loans scheme and grants to small businesses, a scheme to reimburse staff being put on leave of absence, and a scheme to help the self-employed. However, the NHS support noted in the previous question might exclude practices with mixed revenue (NHS and private) from these sources of help. BDA have made submissions to the government on the severe problems faced by dental practices and are waiting for clarification of the availability of support. In addition, the help offered for the self-employed currently limits availability to those earning up to £50,000. This is below the level of income of many dentists, and BDA are asking for this limit to be lifted.</p>

Questions:

- 1) Has a government decree or another legislative act been issued, ordering the closure or suspension of dental practices?
- 2) Has a recommendation been issued, for instance by dental chamber or association, to close or suspend the work of dental practices?
- 3) Are emergency dental treatments provided?
- 4) Is there a shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (masks, goggles, surgical gowns etc.) for dentists in your country?
- 5) Do dentists have access to direct financial support aimed at dentists or health professionals in the context of COVID-19 crisis (please check all applicable options):
 - a) Pension contributions (reduction or delay of payments)
 - b) Taxes (reduction or delay of payments)
 - c) Loans (reduction or delay of payments)
 - d) Other (please explain):
- 6) Do dentists have access to general financial support offered to all citizens or all employees in the context of COVID-19 crisis?