

Panorama - Dental Regulators' Reaction to Covid-19 - Information in progress

	Closure of dental clinics or reduction of activity	Financial Compensation	Emergencies
	<i>Ordered by public authorities or recommended by Dental Regulators following the required confinement.</i>	<i>No one-fits-all national solutions. Considered according to each country's national organization & budget.</i>	<i>1-Set up by public authorities or by dental regulators (hereafter in green). Herewith is a link to a list of dental situations (urgent, emergencies, non-essential treatments). 2-In practice, the main issue everywhere in the world is the dentist's equipment: is the usual one sufficient or is there a need for a more protective equipment (with or without aerosol-generating procedures) that is however provided in priority to hospitals?</i>
Belgium	<p>The <u>government recommends</u> to postpone all "non-essential" appointments until further notice (19 March).</p> <p>The « Société de Médecine Dentaire », a French-speaking Belgian dental association, surveys the infection rate of practitioners.</p>	<p>From 1.300 to 1.500€ for the self-employed practitioner depending on the family's size. Details are here.</p> <p>The « <u>Union des professions libérales et intellectuelles</u> » <u>investigates the current economic losses to prepare higher compensation claims</u>.</p>	<p>A procedure is set up to orientate the patient's needs by phone.</p> <p>Emergency cares and lists of equipped clinics (they have priority for receiving equipment) are <u>set up by the professional unions</u>.</p> <p>A <u>call</u> is set up for the constitution of a volunteer service.</p>
Denmark	<p>The National Board of Health has asked the Dental Association to shut down the clinics until the end of June (17 March).</p> <p>The <u>National Healthcare Board</u> has a web-site in English language.</p>		<p>Visits are closed for regular examinations and dental cleaning.</p> <p>It will continue to be possible to visit a dentist for the treatment of toothache or other critical treatments.</p> <p>A <u>national hotline for healthcare</u> is set up.</p>

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France (State of Health Emergency)	<p>Closure of dental clinics is recommended by the Ordre National des ChirurgiensDentistes/ONCD (15 March) following the <u>government's decision of confinement</u> (19 March).</p> <p>Government decides a state of health emergency for 2 months until 24 May (<u>law</u> of 24 March).</p>	<p>In France no insurance company insures against pandemics and epidemics.</p> <p>Government's position can be summarized as follows : natural disasters are covered by the State but not health disasters.</p> <p>Trade unions request a public decision to declare the country under the situation of « state of health catastrophe » so that insurances companies can trigger their guarantee for "business interruption ».</p>	<p>The ONCD has set up a <u>national phone-line for managing emergency oral healthcare</u>.</p> <p>ONCD has set up :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - some experts' <u>recommendations</u> for the management of patients; - a <u>Protocol</u>; - a Practitioner's Guide for the telephone management of urgent dental claims. <p>A national call is made to volunteer services (27 March).</p> <p>The remaining issue is the availability of PPE with a sufficient level of protection.</p>

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Germany	<p>The closures of dental practices, that some dentists demand, are not on the agenda (unless local decisions are taken, as in Tirschenreuth, Bavaria for instance).</p> <p>The National Association of Health Insurance Dentists (KZBV) and, on behalf of the Landers' regulators, the Federal Dental Association (BZÄK) have drawn up a set of joint measures in order to coordinate and guarantee the continuation of dental care.</p>	<p>A twofold-organisation: at the level of the State and of Landers (when financial capacity allows it).</p> <p><u>State:</u> Emergency financial aid (taxable subsidies) for micro-enterprises and self-employed liberals with up to 5 employees: up to €9,000 in a single payment for 3 months to cover current operating costs (rents, loans, leasing).). Details are here.</p> <p><u>Land of Bavaria for instance:</u> Companies and self-employed persons can apply for a graduated grant that depends on the number of employees: up to 5 employees = € 5,000.</p>	<p><u>Organisation :</u> A national emergency service guides patients.</p> <p><u>Practitioner :</u> The BZÄK indicates the procedure to be followed for emergency dental care.</p> <p>Rather than a prescriptive approach, <u>the ultimate emphasis is put on professional responsibility to judge on a case-by-case basis the appropriateness of the care to be organised and provided.</u></p>

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Ireland	<p><u>Closure and limitation of dental activity to emergencies is a government decision</u> (28 March).</p> <p><u>The Health Protection Surveillance Centre is under pressure for its risk-assessment of providing « dental services to patients who have neither a fever nor respiratory symptoms ».</u>(20 March).</p>	<p>The Ministry of Enterprises has introduced a series of support measures for employees (about 10,000 people are employed directly and indirectly by dental practices) and for employers to meet their expenses.</p> <p>A payment is provided for those who have lost their jobs or whose company has suffered a 75% drop in turnover as a result of VIDOC-19. Details are here.</p>	<p>No central organization of emergencies.</p> <p>Reminder is done by the government of the professional ethics that govern the practitioner's decision to orientate /treat/etc a patient.</p> <p>http://www.dentalcouncil.ie/files/covid/CDO%20-%20Letter%20to%20registrants%20-%2020200320.pdf</p> <p>A special register of volunteers is set up by the Dental Council of Ireland.</p>
Italy	<p>The Italian Government recommends to public and private dental clinics to reduce the activity to emergencies.</p> <p>FNOMCeO sent a communication to enforce both this recommendation and the provincial decrees as well.</p> <p>The threat of professional sanction for ethical misconduct is recalled in cases where the practitioner has not limited the activity to emergency cares.</p>	<p>ENPAM, the social security institution for doctors and dentists, could give €1,000 as compensation for each dentist, but a government decision is still needed.</p> <p>In addition, the Italian government could allocate €600 per dentist, but only for the practitioner with an annual income of €35,000.</p>	<p>The emergencies' organization is set up at regional level (March 26).</p> <p>The assessment of urgent oral healthcare relies on the professional responsibility.</p> <p><u>Are « urgent or non-deferrable » cares</u> : presence of pain, dental bleeding, abscesses and phlegmons, trauma and prosthetic problems.</p> <p>In orthodontics: detachment of brackets, deformation of braces or orthodontic appliances, ulcers, etc.</p>

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Luxembourg	Dental clinics have been closed until further notice by a Ministry of Health's decision since 21 March.	Under discussion.	<p>A national service for dental emergency has been in place since 21 March: national number created + procedure to guide the patient + list of emergency clinics.</p> <p>The following situations are considered as dental emergencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - trauma / dental or bone fracture (coronary fracture, contention, pulp chamber closure etc) - hemorrhage - abscess - cellulitis or pulpitis - pathology of the oral mucosa (ruling out a diagnosis of carcinoma) - sharp pain - other clinical settings requiring urgent investigation of oral infectious outbreaks (e.g., assessment of endocarditis or carcinoma).
Nederlands	<u>Government Decision: Closure and emergencies assured until April 6.</u>	<p>The Ministry of Economic Affairs sets up the NOW (short-time working) scheme for compensation.</p> <p>Details will follow.</p>	<p>No national organisation.</p> <p>Practitioner's appreciation.</p>

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Portugal (State of emergency)	<p><u>Government Order No. 3301-A/2020 from March 15 set for 15 days the "suspension of all dental, stomatological and odontological activities, except for situations that are proven to be urgent and unavoidable".</u></p> <p>The government declared the state of emergency on 20 March.</p>	<p>At stake are 11,500 dentists, plus 35,000 professionals including prosthetists, hygienists, dental assistants.</p> <p>The Ordem dos Médicos Dentistas considers that the measures announced so far by the government are insufficient for liberal professionals, and non-existent in the case of managing partners, "a professional category that is not entitled to any compensation under the current support framework presented by the executive" (1 April).</p>	<p><u>A Procedure Manual is issued by the Ordem</u> for emergency situations.</p> <p>No face-to-face service should be performed without prior contact by remote means (landline telephone, mobile phone, e-mail or other means of communicating with the patient) and confirmation of urgent and unavoidable situations..</p>
Québec	<p>Dentists' clinics have closed for a period of 14 days for all patients with non-urgent appointments, as recommended by the Ordre des dentistes du Québec (ODQ) and the Ordre des hygiénistes dentaires du Québec (OHD)(15 March).</p>	<p>The government is putting in place a series of support measures for employees' incomes and employers' costs.</p> <p>Compensations for the loss of income suffered, on the other hand, do not clearly emerged from the government's measures.</p>	<p><u>An emergency procedure is set up (with infography) by the Ministry of Health:</u> telephone triage of patients, orientation to equipped clinics for emergencies.</p>

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Spain (State of Emergency)	<p>Recommandation de l'ordre (14 mars) après la déclaration de l'<u>Etat d'Urgence</u> nationale (14 mars).</p> <p>Closure is recommended by the Consejo General de Dentistas (14 March) after the government's declaration of National Emergency (14 March).</p> <p>Here too the regulator, the Consejo General de Dentistas, does not have the legal authority to order the closure of practices, but the containment's logic and the professional ethics require this assumption of responsibility.</p>	<p>The national government offers some aid to cover the auxiliary staff's wages.</p> <p>At present there is little aid envisaged for the liberal professionals.</p>	<p><u>Practitioner</u> : National recommendations and infography are set up by the Consejo with procedures laid down for processing the patient's request (March 19)</p> <p><u>Organisation</u> : Provincial delegations of the Consejo organise emergencies at their own initiative.</p>

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Switzerland	<p><u>According to « Ordinance No. 2 on measures to combat coronavirus » from the Federal Council</u>, health-care institutions (hospitals, clinics, doctors' surgeries and dental surgeries) are prohibited from carrying out non-emergency examinations, treatments and interventions.</p> <p>Contravening the prohibitions is punishable by a fine and/or an imprisonment of up to three years (Ordinance 2).</p> <p>Switzerland has also imposed controls on PPE exports to third countries, but has authorised a mutual exemption for the EU and EFTA states, provided that the EU continues to exempt Switzerland from their export restrictions</p>	<p>Compensations granted to liberal professions are calculated with the system of allowances for loss of earnings ; they are paid under the form of a daily allowance (80% of the activity with a cap of 196 CHF/185€).</p> <p>These measures were announced <u>by the Federal Council on 20 March 2020</u> and apply retroactively to 17 March.</p> <p>Their duration is limited to 6 months.</p>	<p>Organisation is undertaken by canton's public authorities.</p>

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U-K	<p>Confinement is ordered (23 March).</p> <p>The dental clinics maintain a basic service: telephone advices, patient referral, and prescription for analgesics and medications.</p> <p><u>CPD is encouraged.</u></p>	<p>Government support « That means any business who needs access to cash to pay their rent, the salaries, suppliers, or purchase stock, will be able to access a government-backed loan, on attractive terms. And if demand is greater than the initial £330 billion I'm making available today, I will go further and provide as much capacity as required. » (Chancellor Rishi Sunak, 17 March).</p> <p>Insurers' indications The Association of British Insurers has warned that few companies will be eligible for compensation; in practice dentists should not be covered.</p> <p>NHS <u>In some nations like in Scotland, dentists in contract with the public National Health Service could receive 90% of the payment.</u></p> <p>Annual fees « We are not yet clear on the government's plans to support the sector and so it remains a real possibility that dental professionals will be under severe financial pressure (...). Understandably, there are calls for us to waive the ARF payments which will be due (...) from dentists in December »(24 March).</p>	<p>Local organisation of emergencies within UK nations with a local and special register of volunteers.</p> <p>NHS emergencies are overcrowded and it is the duty of professionals to reduce the pressure as much as possible.</p> <p>The General Dental Council emphasizes « Expert advice on the clinical aspects of COVID-19 will continue to come from the health authorities of the four nations. We cannot create that advice – our role will be limited to providing clear signposting to all the current guidance we are aware of.</p> <p>That guidance inevitably doesn't cover every possible set of circumstances, so professional judgement remains key when making decisions about providing - or not providing - treatment.. We do not expect any dental professional to provide treatment unless, in their professional opinion, it is safe to do so for both patients and the dental team » (24 March).</p>

