

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Mon, 16 Mar 2020 06:09:17 -0400
To: Lerner, Andrea (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Subject: Fwd: Dental

Respond

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b) (6)
Date: March 16, 2020 at 5:54:34 AM EDT
To: "Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)>
Subject: Dental

I ask you to address the explosion of concerns among the dental community in regards to COVID-19. We, the dental community, already high risk personnel, are at an even higher risk at this point and time. Many of those who do not work in the dental community are not aware of how high risk our current situation is. For 8-12 hours a day we are creating aerosols while sitting 8-12 inches from a persons open mouth. These aerosols contain saliva and blood droplets, along with billions of other bacteria and materials. In dentistry, saliva is considered a blood borne pathogen. Although OSHA requires Level 3 masks for all aerosol producing procedures, not all offices are complying. This DOES NOT matter anyway as we know SURGICAL MASKS DO NOT FILTER OUT THE COVID-19 virus. I ask that you suspend non essential dental procedures such as dental cleanings and other procedures that are non-emergent. That we triage patients and accept EMERGENCIES ONLY. We are at such a HIGH risk, not only to ourselves and our families, but a HIGH RISK to spreading this virus COMMUNITY wide. Many of us are taking extra precautions but screening patients, but with a up-to-14 day incubation period, that obviously does not matter.

Please hear our plea to address our concerns. The American Dental Association and the American Dental Hygienists Association has failed us.

Thank you
Alicia Jewell

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone