

## Review of Guidelines on infection control: public consultation

### Introduction

The Dental Board of Australia (the Board) wants to make it easier for practitioners to know and understand the professional expectations around infection prevention and control to help them practice safely.

As part of this, the Board is reviewing its *Guidelines on infection control*. The Board is consulting on whether to shift the information contained in the guidelines to more accessible and helpful tools and resources, such as a one-stop fact sheet and a self-reflective tool.

**Please ensure you have read the public consultation paper and attachments before answering this survey.**

### Publication of your responses

Please let us know if you would like your responses published.

- Yes, I would like my responses to be published
- Please do not publish my responses

### About your responses

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

- Yes
- No

### Your organisation

Please enter your organisation's name below:

The following questions will help us to gather information about the Board's proposal.

**Please ensure you have read the public consultation papers before responding.**

Q1. Which of the Board's proposed options do you prefer?

- Option 1 - keep and revise the guidelines
- Option 2 - replace the guidelines with other supporting resources
- Other

Q1. Why do you prefer Option 2 - replace the guidelines with other supporting resources?

The current guidelines do not support the changes that occur in occupational and public health risks. It is important that referenced guideline documents are subject to the principles of Best Practice Regulation. These include the supporting guidelines being subject to a much broader review process than is currently occurring. The supporting guidelines should also not be created by organisations working actively to sell products promoted in the guidelines or gaining or restricting competition via the control of creating a Board required guideline. The Covid crisis has demonstrated the need to be actively and appropriately changeable in a crisis. Dentists in every state are now subject to Covid infection control guidelines of each state and the DBA guidelines have created confusion rather than clarity in this situation. The ADA Guidelines for Infection control 4th Ed while being published in the depth of Covid-19 fail to give guidance to the covid-normal state that we experience particularly in Victoria.

Q2. If you prefer option 1, to keep and revise the guidelines, do you have any suggestions about the language, structure or content of the draft revised guidelines (**Attachment C**)?

I do not prefer option1. I do notice that the Australian guidelines for the prevention and control in healthcare is now listed by the ACSQHC as a joint publication with a July 2021 update. This may cause confusion if Option 1 draft is accepted.

Q3a. Would replacing the guidelines with other supporting resources result in any unintended consequences or costs for **dental practitioners**?

- Yes
- No
- Other

Q3b. Would replacing the guidelines with other supporting resources result in any unintended consequences or costs for **dental practices**?

- Yes
- No
- Other

Q3c. Would replacing the guidelines with other supporting resources result in any unintended consequences or costs for **patients or consumers**?

- Yes
- No
- Other

Q3d. Would replacing the guidelines with other supporting resources result in any unintended consequences or costs for **members of the community vulnerable to harm**?

- Yes
- No
- Other

Q3e. Would replacing the guidelines with other supporting resources result in any unintended consequences or costs for **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples**?

- Yes
- No
- Other

Q4. Do you have any suggestions about the language, structure or content of the draft revised fact sheet (**Attachment D**)?

Yes

No

Q5. Do you have any suggestions about the language, structure or content of the draft self-reflective tool (**Attachment E**)?

Yes

No

Q6. Do you have any other feedback about the Board's proposal?