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Colleagues:

We are all receiving a variety of messages about what to do to manage the spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. In an effort to help our members make the best decisions for their practices, their patients, and themselves, here is what the AAP is doing and currently recommends:

1. First and foremost, the AAP supports the recommendation released by the American Dental Association (ADA) to suspend elective procedures for the next three weeks. Doing so allows dental professionals to limit exposure in their offices and help flatten the curve. You can learn more about the ADA's approach at [ada.org/virus](https://ada.org/virus). These recommendations are useful for each of you in helping to slow the spread of COVID-19.
2. The AAP recommends that members monitor guidelines being released by [state dental regulatory agencies](#). These agencies will provide the most accurate and up-to-date information to guide practice in your local area. I have asked Trustees to keep track of changes in their districts and we will work to distribute that information in a timely manner.



3. We are paying close attention to the guidance offered by state dental associations. It may seem confusing that individual states are taking different approaches, but the message is essentially the same: suspend practice other than emergency treatment for a designated period of time. You can access a list of state dental association websites on [here](#).

Your AAP Board of Trustees is working hard to compile as much information as possible to help members make the best possible treatment decisions for their patients. As periodontal professionals, it is crucial that our actions contribute to public safety. Continue to monitor [perio.org](http://perio.org) for important updates as they become available. I will also continue to regularly communicate with the membership electronically.

The decision to close a practice or postpone procedures are not easy decisions. However, in this unprecedented, global crisis we must work together to protect the health and welfare of our communities and families.

Thank you and be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan J. Frantz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Bryan J. Frantz, DMD**

President, American Academy of Periodontology