



# American Academy of Periodontology

## President's Message

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Dear AAP members:

Like many of you, I am unsettled and concerned about the recent outbreak of COVID-19. This is an unprecedented health crisis that we as a profession have never had to face. Deciding how to effectively and safely provide patient care is challenging in the midst of a global pandemic, and I'm sure many of our members are faced with making tough decisions with respect to their practices. The AAP is committed to supporting its members, and as a result we have compiled a cache of resources to provide guidance on managing COVID-19 in your office. Please visit [perio.org](https://perio.org) and the [Member Resource Library](#) on AAP Connect for more information. The AAP will continue to gather information and additional resources as the situation evolves. Your Board of Trustees, along with staff, has been diligently monitoring information from the Centers for Disease Control and state and local agencies, and will continue to share relevant news with the membership as expeditiously as possible. We are also in contact with our colleagues at the American Dental Association to ensure alignment on any recommendations with respect to slowing the spread of COVID-19 in dental practices.



According to the CDC, the only method to slow the spread of this novel virus is to avoid close contact whenever possible, wash your hands frequently, and regularly disinfect commonly used surfaces with a solution that is at least 60% alcohol. In health care offices, the CDC recommends separating patients with respiratory symptoms and considering strategies that allow you to limit interaction with your patients. **At present, the AAP recommends that periodontists refer to, and monitor, all appropriate state and federal recommendations and guidance.** Please continue to use evidence-based decision making in your practice to ensure your staff, your patients, and yourself remain healthy.

The AAP central office will remain open, however effective this week AAP professional staff will work remotely. AAP business will continue as usual, and members will be able to reach staff through normal phone and email channels. The AAP has made the decision that all volunteer work (committees, task forces, and workgroups) be conducted virtually through conference call or video meetings until further notice.

The AAP will continue to provide updates as they become available. Monitor perio.org for more information and keep an eye out for future communications from your leadership. The AAP is committed to helping its members navigate this extraordinary health crisis to the best of its ability.

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 horizontal line extending from the end.

**Bryan J. Frantz, DMD**

President, American Academy of Periodontology