

American  
Dental  
Association



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Dear Colleague:

The American Dental Association (ADA) is pleased to collaborate with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in this cooperative effort to provide information about smallpox to *all* dentists in the United States. We are certain that you are aware of the national concern about the potential for bioterrorism attacks on our people and the use of smallpox as a weapon in those attacks.

It is likely that dentistry could be called upon to provide assistance in the immediate aftermath of a significant bioterrorism attack, especially when the traditional medical capabilities in a community have been overwhelmed. The ADA has developed a strategy to inform dentists of the potential role they may play in the response to a significant bioterrorism attack and to help prepare the profession to respond.

Should the threat of a smallpox attack become a reality, dentists may become involved in surveillance efforts to detect and help monitor the spread of the disease. Dentists may also be asked to assist in providing vaccinations against smallpox. The enclosed material will be very useful in giving dentists information they will need to assist them with detection and in providing those services.

We strongly recommend that you develop a special "Bioterrorism" file in your office for this information and additional educational materials that will be forthcoming from the ADA. Keep this file up-to-date and in a place where it is readily accessible. In addition to helping to prepare you and your staff for assisting in your community, the information in this special file will help you protect yourself, your family, your staff and patients in the event of a bioterrorism attack.

Please feel free to contact Dr. Albert H. Guay at the ADA at 312-440-2844 for any additional information on this subject.

Handwritten signature of T. Howard Jones, DMD, in cursive.

T. Howard Jones, DMD  
President

Handwritten signature of James B. Bramson, DDS, in cursive.

James B. Bramson, DDS  
Executive Director