

CEBJA STATEMENT ON TREATING PATIENTS WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES HAVING UNKNOWN TRANSMISSION PARAMETERS

The American Dental Association considers the delivery of necessary dental care to patients to be the fundamental responsibility of every practicing dentist. This obligation is expressed in the principle of beneficence in the *ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct*. If a patient is suspected of having an infectious disease with uncertain transmission parameters where effective infection control procedures have not been identified or scientifically supported, dentists should balance the needs of the patient with the safety of other individuals to arrive at an appropriate treatment decision.

The following links may be useful to practitioners in arriving at that decision:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Infection Control Resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/guidelines/index.htm>

[Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care](#)

American Dental Association Infection Control Resources:

[https://www.ada.org/search-results#q=infection%20control&sort=relevancy&f:@adasites=\[ADA.org\]](https://www.ada.org/search-results#q=infection%20control&sort=relevancy&f:@adasites=[ADA.org])