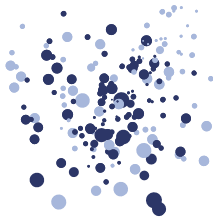


# ORAL HEALTH DURING & AFTER COVID-19



**Oral Health During & Beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic:** The need for oral health care has not gone away during the pandemic. Additionally, as routine cleanings and restorative procedures have been postponed and people are facing financial hardship, the need for care and the amount of Connecticut residents on HUSKY will have increased from prior to the pandemic. Good oral health is essential to overall health. It is important we protect Connecticut's HUSKY dental provider network and get the necessary policies and infrastructure in place to safely address Connecticut's oral health needs both during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, there are a number of tools that can help address dental needs safely. These include teledentistry, silver diamine fluoride (SDF) and other non-aerosol procedures.



**Non-Aerosol Dentistry:** Certain dental procedures, like drilling cavities, can produce particles or droplets in the air known as aerosols. Aerosols pose a risk for spreading COVID-19 to both providers and patients. Therefore, alternative, non-aerosol procedures, such as application of silver diamine fluoride (SDF), are safer during the pandemic and should be utilized as appropriate and as recommended by dental professionals.

## SDF

**Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF):** SDF is a topical medication used to prevent and halt dental decay (prevent cavities from getting worse). SDF is also an effective treatment for relieving dental hypersensitivity. SDF is a non-aerosol alternative to drilling cavities that could benefit some patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Resources:

- [American Dental Association Clinical Practice Guideline](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Clinical Practice Guideline](#)



**Teledentistry:** Teledentistry allows providers to safely consult with patients who have emergent dental needs via audio or video technology. Dental providers can then prescribe an at-home care routine, where appropriate, or in the case of an emergency, refer them to a location equipped to handle the case. Teledentistry can also help with prevention and early detection of dental needs.

Resources:

- [Teledentistry: Providing Access to Care During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)
- [ADA Interim Guidance for Management of Emergency and Urgent Dental Care](#)

Additional Resources: [Connecticut State Dental Association Coronavirus Response & Resources](#)