



# **GUIDELINE for DENTAL EDUCATION under COVID-19 situation**

**Part 1:**

**Lecture/tutorials and  
PBL interaction**

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## **Background**

Dental education can be broadly divided into 3 parts. Lecture/tutorials and PBL interaction, simulated training courses, and clinical skill training experiences. Due to the recent novel coronavirus pandemic around the world, many dental schools and universities have been forced into locked down. During this pandemic, most of the lectures are facilitated online to further the learning progression of dental students. Throughout most of the Asia Pacific region, the simulated training and clinical skill training courses for students was halted. For the purposes of exchanging information and experiences to enhance those educational courses which are of the utmost importance to Dental Education, it was deemed necessary to formulate a clear set of COVID-19 guidelines. This has been done to safely facilitate simulated training courses and clinical training courses as well as those lecture courses under the current pandemic situation.

Part 1 of these guidelines focuses on lecture/tutorials and PBL interaction in dentistry and summarizes the ADEAP's recommendations for the classroom-based courses in dentistry, under the COVID-19 pandemic situation. These guidelines are summarized to ensure the safety of students and teaching staff. The ADEAP will continue to update these guidelines as new information becomes available.

### **NOTICE:**

This guideline should be considered safe to use, only when the number of COVID-19 epidemic cases has been significantly reduced or in other words "the epidemiological curve" has flattened in the respective jurisdiction. The criteria for lifting restrictions on activities should be in accordance with national guidelines for each jurisdiction/country.

The national guidelines for each jurisdiction/country take priority in clinical criteria for COVID-19.

## Guidelines

### General:

1. When implementing lecture/tutorials and PBL interaction session, schools must take steps to avoid students being in enclosed spaces for long periods of time, with poor ventilation. At all times staff and students should avoid confined spaces where significant numbers of people are in close proximity to each other.
2. All items and equipment (phones, computers, etc.) should not be shared and should be thoroughly disinfected. Ideally, phones should not be brought into the classroom by students unless prior approval is given by their educator. If approval is given, the device should be encased in a removable plastic bag for the duration of the session and disinfected after use in the classroom.
3. Thoroughly disinfect all contact points (doorknobs, elevator buttons, etc.) and refrain from using the elevator to arrive at where the session is being conducted.
4. Hand sanitization is mandatory for students and teaching staff, upon arrival at school, before/after learning activities and upon returning home. Hand sanitization should be either of the following. If hands are visibly dirty, they should be washed thoroughly with soap and water for more than 30 seconds. Hands should then be wiped dry, ideally with a paper towel.
5. Hand sanitization can also be achieved by a locally approved hand sanitization lotion or foam. This should be provided for use in all learning spaces and is ideally used when the individual's hands show no visible signs of "dirt".
6. After hand disinfection, students and staff should avoid touching their face and head to prevent recontamination.
7. For students and teaching staff, it is essential to wear a mask when you are outdoors, indoors, or when talking to each other.
8. Always maintain a safe physical distance (at least 1.5 meters) between individuals in the classroom and outdoors.
9. Careful consideration of timings for student sessions should be undertaken to keep contact study hours, as short as possible.
10. The classroom should be ventilated regularly. If the room is mechanically ventilated (air conditioning system, mechanical ventilation system), the ventilation system should be in constant operation. The ventilation value should more than 30 m<sup>3</sup> per person per hour. If the classroom does not have a ventilation system, ventilate the classroom by opening the window fully at least once every 30 minutes for at least 5 minutes.
11. Body temperature checks must be undertaken for all students and staff prior to entry into the classroom. Should their body temperature exceed 37.3 degrees, the student will

- be asked to wait, rest and then their temperature will be retaken. If they again record a body temperature that exceeds 37.3 degrees, they should be sent for COVID-19 testing.
12. Students and staffs must self-assess their health status daily for COVID-19 related symptoms (Annex 1). These results should be reported to the faculty member in charge in the event any COVID-19 signs or symptoms present themselves. The student should proceed for COVID-19 testing and self-isolate until a result has been determined.
  13. Those who have even the slightest of symptoms, must work from home and not attend the school for any educational engagements.
  14. The school should create and maintain an attendance register with emergency contact details for each student and staff member to facilitate “contact tracing” should the need arise.
  15. Avoid public transportation (trains, buses, taxis, etc.) as much as possible and actively use methods that do not involve the use of public transportation (bicycle commuting, walking, etc.).
  16. If using public transportation, wear a mask and suppress unnecessary conversation.
  17. If possible, carry hand sanitizer. Hands should be sanitized before and after using public transport or when deemed appropriate.
  18. Observe the local relevant laws and regulations and take necessary measures to ensure the safety of the school and hospital.
  19. The content of classroom-based courses must meet the minimum requirements of each school and registration authority for each country.

**Before entering the School Building and Classroom:**

1. Before entering the school building, students should be screened for COVID-19 by answering the screening questionnaire (Annex 1). Students who have a fever ( $>37.3\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) or symptoms listed at Annex 1, or have had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, or travelled overseas or from a high risk jurisdiction within the last 14 days cannot enter the school building, and these students should be referred to the closest COVID-19 screening facility for testing.
2. Ideally, students should enter the school building through a separate entrance, especially in the case that the school and hospital are in the same building.
3. The entrance and exit of the facility should be monitored to ensure entering students/staff do not come into close contact with exiting individuals, prior to being screened for COVID-19.
4. Before entering the school building, students should wash their hands if visible dirt is evident. If not, use as a minimum, an approved alcohol-based hand rub.

5. Students must put on a mask before entering the school building, if not already wearing one.
6. If the school and a hospital are in the same building, students should ideally enter the classroom separately to ensure no close contact with any “patient population” occurs.
7. For teaching staff, please follow the specific guidelines of infection control of their respective university and jurisdiction.

**During the lecture/tutorials and PBL interaction session:**

1. The student workstation e.g. student bench, equipment that will be used during the session will need to be wiped down with alcohol/effective sanitizer before each session commences.
2. In the classroom, it is essential to limit the student numbers to facilitate safe physical distancing.
3. The physical distance between all students and all students and teaching staff should be maintained at a minimum 1.5 meters. Seats should be positioned at least 1.5 meters apart.
4. Schools should mark the available areas, designated seating, etc., in a way that is easily understood by students and staff to identify safe physical distancing. e.g. removeable floor or wall signage.
5. During the session, always maintain safe physical distancing, with no moving around the classroom during the session, unless directed to do so by a staff member.
6. All students and staff must wear masks throughout the entire teaching session.
7. If a student feels unwell during the lecture, they must notify the staff member. Their temperature will be retaken, and the screening questions will be asked again. If the temperature exceeds 37.3 degrees and/or the student answers “Yes” to any of the screening questions, the student will be sent for COVID-19 testing. The remainder of the students will be sent home for self-quarantine immediately. If there is a confirmed positive result, the remainder of the class must undergo COVID-19 testing and self-isolate until they receive their results.

**After finishing the lecture/tutorials and PBL interaction session:**

1. All student/staff contacted surfaces and equipment must be wiped with alcohol or an effective sanitizer.
2. Remove and safely dispose of all masks and change into a new face mask.
3. All staff and students must undertake hand hygiene i.e. wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub, before leaving the classroom.
4. Students should leave the school immediately after their session. *This may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.*

## Annex 1: COVID-19 Screening Questions

Name: (            )      Year Level: (            )      Student ID no: (            )

Have your body temperature checked then circle your response to the following questions before entering the hospital, school building, or classroom/simulation clinic/clinic.

*If you answer “Yes” to the following questions or have a temperature above 37.3 degrees, speak to a staff member immediately for directions and advice.*

Body temperature	°C
Do you have cough?	Yes / No
Do you have shortness of breath?	Yes / No
Do you have sputum?	Yes / No
Do you have sore throat?	Yes / No
Do you currently experience a loss of smell or taste?	Yes / No
Do you have runny nose?	Yes / No
Do you have muscle aches?	Yes / No
Do you have headaches?	Yes / No
Do you have diarrhea or nausea?	Yes / No
To the best of your knowledge, have you had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 within the last 14 days?	Yes / No
Have you travelled overseas or from a high-risk jurisdiction within the last 14 days?	Yes / No



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