



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

PO Box 47852 · Olympia Washington 98504-7852

**DENTAL QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION  
SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, August 6, 2020**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Aaron Stevens, DMD, Chair  
David Carsten, DDS, Vice Chair  
Karla Briggs, Public Member  
Kathleen Elling, EFDA  
Lyle McClellan, DDS  
Ronald Marsh, DDS  
Brian Macall, DDS  
Marlynne Fulton, Public Member  
John Liu, DDS  
Bree Kramer, EFDA  
Tiffany Bass, DDS  
Julia Richman, DDS  
Sonia Pal, DDS

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Kunal Walia, DDS  
Abhishake Banda, DMD, MD  
Karen Clements, DDS

**OPEN SESSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER** – Aaron Stevens, DMD, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

- 1.1. The commission and staff introduced themselves.
- 1.2. The commission approved the agenda as presented.

**2. DENTAL COVID-19 RESPONSE**

The commission discussed a statement for COVID-19 testing.

- Dr. Stevens clarified that the statement is in relation to COVID-19 screening, not testing.

**STAFF PRESENT**

Trina Crawford, Executive Director  
Jennifer Santiago, Program Manager  
Becky McElhiney, Assistant Program  
Manager  
Bill Kellington, Supervising Staff Attorney  
Heather Carter, Assistant Attorney General  
(AAG)

- Ms. Carter shared that if the commission chose to add the section regarding dental hygienist delegation, COVID-19 screening would need to be added to the list of allowable delegated tasks through an emergency rule, and permanent rulemaking could be pursued at a later date. Ms. Carter also advised the commission specify whether this task would be performed under general or close supervision.
- Dr. Stevens asked the commission if there were any concerns about the content of the statement. No concerns were shared.
- Dr. Stevens shared his opinion that general supervision would be appropriate. The commission agreed.
- Dr. Stevens inquired why dental assistants were not included in the statement as an option for COVID-19 screening delegation.
- Dr. Liu shared that he has no concerns with a dental assistant administering the test.
- Ms. Crawford clarified that dental assistants are required to perform tasks under close supervision.
- Dr. Stevens proposed modifying the statement to include language indicating that COVID-19 screening could be delegated to dental hygienists under general supervision, or dental assistants and expanded function dental auxiliaries (EFDAs) under close supervision.
- Ms. Carter indicated the two delegation options may need to be separate emergency rules. Ms. Carter will work with Ms. Santiago to identify which rules would need to be opened.
- Ms. Santiago clarified that general supervision is specifically laid out in statute for EFDAs. Ms. Santiago recommended specifying that EFDAs could be delegated COVID-19 screening under close supervision.
- Ms. Santiago shared that the Washington State Dental Association (WSDA) inquired about dentists requiring a medical test site license to analyze test results. Ms. Santiago clarified that collecting the swab and sending it to a lab for analysis would not require this license. Ms. Santiago recommended that this topic may be more appropriate to address in a separate FAQ document rather than in the statement.
- Dr. Chiodo shared his experience with being exempted from the program to perform COVID-19 testing at the University of Washington, School of Dentistry. Some tests available now produce results within fifteen to twenty minutes, so some dental offices may want to use this option. Dr. Chiodo shared his opinion that dental offices would likely qualify for the medical test site license waiver.
- Ms. Santiago recommended modifying the statement to add a sentence at the bottom of the statement referring dentists to the medical test site program if they would like to pursue COVID-19 screening.

- Dr. Liu moved to approve the statement with the modifications proposed by Dr. Stevens and Ms. Santiago. Dr. Marsh seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed with no opposed.
- Ms. Santiago asked Ms. Carter whether the approval of emergency rulemaking would need to be a separate agenda item. Ms. Carter confirmed that it would.
- The commission agreed to add emergency rulemaking consideration to the agenda for the September 11, 2020 business meeting.

### 3. ADJOURN

The commission adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Submitted By:

Commission Approval By:

Signature on file  
Jennifer Santiago, Program Manager

Signature on file  
Aaron Stevens, DMD, Chairperson