

## **Via Email, also sent to local EMS, dental board and dental society**

**From:** Mark Oghalai

**Subject:** Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery during the COVID-19 crisis

**Date:** March 24, 2020 at 2:39:24 PM EDT

**To:** Mandy Cohen, NCDHHS

Dear Dr. Cohen:

On behalf of the NC Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons I'm forwarding a letter from our national society president. As oral and maxillofacial surgeons we continue to see many emergency dental patients in our offices, whose treatment usually will generate significant volumes of aerosols. This makes our doctors and assistants high risk for contracting COVID 19 from asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic patients. As such we seek designation as essential first line responders to better our access to N95 respirators. If we are unable to continue safely treating these patients, they will end up in hospital Emergency Departments throughout this state, further straining critical resources. Thanks for any assistance you can provide. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you should need any further information.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Oghalai, DDS

President NC Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons