

Dentistry work tasks associated with exposure risk levels

Lower (caution)	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Performing administrative duties in non-public areas of dentistry facilities, away from other staff members. <p>Note: For activities in the lower (caution) risk category, OSHA's Interim Guidance for Workers and Employers of Workers at Lower Risk of Exposure may be most appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing urgent or emergency dental care, not involving aerosol-generating procedures, to well patients (i.e., to members of the general public who are not known or suspected COVID-19 patients). ▪ Working at busy staff work areas within a dentistry facility.
High	Very High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entering a known or suspected COVID-19 patient's room or care area. ▪ Providing emergency dental care, not involving aerosol-generating procedures, to a known or suspected COVID-19 patient. ▪ Performing aerosol-generating procedures on well patients. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Performing aerosol-generating procedures on known or suspected COVID-19 patients. ▪ Collecting or handling specimens from known or suspected COVID-19 patients.

Until more is known about how COVID-19 spreads, OSHA recommends using a combination of [standard precautions](#), [contact precautions](#), and [droplet precautions](#), including eye protection (e.g., goggles or face shields), to protect dentistry workers performing patient care that does not involve aerosol-generating procedures* on individuals without suspected or confirmed COVID-19. In emergency situations when workers have exposure to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients, and anytime when performing [aerosol-generating procedures](#), use [standard precautions](#), [contact precautions](#), [airborne precautions](#), and eye protection (e.g., goggles or face shields) to protect dentistry workers.

**In dentistry, using dental turbines, micro-motor handpieces, ultrasonic scalers, and air-water syringes are examples of tasks that can generate aerosols. This list is not exhaustive; other procedures also may generate aerosols.*

The CDC provides the most updated [infection prevention and control recommendations](#) for emergency dental procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic.