

16 March 2020

To our valued Members, colleagues, partners and other interested parties,

### **Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on AADFA operations**

As you will be aware, the World Health Organization (WHO) has announced that COVID-19 is a global pandemic and the situation is constantly evolving, with available information changing rapidly.

To help slow the spread of the virus and reduce the chance of widespread community transmission, the Australian Government has banned, effective from Monday 16 March 2020, organised, non-essential gatherings.

This unprecedented action is particularly applicable to **all** non-essential meetings or conferences of critical workforces, such as health care professionals, regardless of the size of the gathering.

In addition, various countries have now issued travel restrictions and imposed mandatory self-isolation on international arrivals.

Over the last 10 years of running training programs across the globe, AADFA has never had to postpone an event, for any reason. However, in light of the seriousness of the situation and the latest measures from authorities, together with AADFA's commitment to providing only the highest levels of service and safety to dental practitioners and the community, it is not appropriate to continue with scheduled training programs at this time.

This step has been considered necessary because AADFA training programs involve live patient treatment, in a group setting, within a confined space and several participants often travel from both interstate and overseas.

As such, AADFA has taken the responsible step of rescheduling, at no extra cost, Dentists who registered to attend programs due to be held in March and April 2020. While we are hopeful that our training operations will return to normal beyond this timeframe, we will naturally be guided by advice from authorities and respond accordingly. Should further rescheduling of courses be required, we will liaise directly with those affected and update this notice.

However, other AADFA Member Services remain unaffected and will continue as usual. Members are still able to seek advice and clinical support/mentoring through the online clinical forum and utilise our FREE ongoing continuing education and practice management resources.

Product orders can still be placed in the usual fashion. Presently, there is no change to the expected delivery times for orders, though product suppliers have advised that it would be prudent, considering the rapidly changing environment, to order sufficient stock in advance in anticipation that product shortages may occur.

This pandemic is serious and not to be underestimated, but like you AADFA is determined to meet the issues calmly and responsibly, with confidence and transparency and we stand ready to assist our Members to the best of our ability through the coming period.

AADFA would like to thank you for your understanding and co-operation during these difficult and unpredictable times and we encourage you to please be kind, respectful and decent to one another.

Please let us know if you have any questions, or if we can assist in anyway.

Sincerely,

AADFA