



# Position Statement: Intra-Oral Treatment During an Outbreak of Infectious Disease

## **Position**

When deciding whether to include intra-oral into any treatment plan, it is the massage therapist's responsibility to use their professional judgement in each individual client situation to determine if the technique is indicated and the potential benefits outweigh the increased risk of an infectious disease transmission.

As of August 26, 2021, the MTAA Board of Directors is recommending that if members provide intra-oral treatments during periods of an infectious disease outbreak, that members adhere to the following guidelines:

## **Conditions:**

Given that the client's treatment plan indicates the need for intra-oral treatment and  
Given that the therapist determines the benefits of treatment outweigh the higher risk of transmission.

## **Task:**

Perform intra-oral treatment during an outbreak of infectious disease.

## **Standard:**

### *Quality / Technical:*

- So that the Massage Therapist never treats past the larynx or engages the gag reflex.

### *Quality/ Interpersonal:*

- So that the Massage Therapist sets up a non-verbal signal from the client with regard to pain and comfort level.

## **Safety:**

- So that the client has screened negative on an infectious disease screening questionnaire and denies any symptoms associated with an infectious disease.
- So that the Massage Therapist dons the following PPE prior to treatment:
  - medical / examination gloves
  - an ASMT rated mask with protective goggles OR full-face shield
- So that treatment is discontinued if the client indicates.
- So that intra-oral treatment is not used or is modified if a contraindication to this treatment exists.
- So that the therapist doffs their PPE after treatment has concluded, in a manner fitting with the Alberta Health Services Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and related Infection, Prevention & Control (IPC) guidelines.