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MEMORANDUM NO. 2021-008

TO : All Chapter & Affiliate Presidents
FROM : Public Health Committee
DATE : August 4, 2021
SUBJECT : Advisory on Community Programs

Greetings! Hope everything is well and good!

The purpose of this advisory is for the continued concern and support of the Philippine Dental Association to our dental professionals. As the threat of the new Delta variant looms, there are still possibilities for transmission of the virus, especially for individuals and families who may not have the immediate opportunity to be vaccinated. In addition, an increase in the risk of transmission may result in worsening illness.


The pandemic has likewise magnified what most of our fellow Filipinos need in immediate health and even oral health care. The Philippine Dental Association understands and supports dental professionals who, in the spirit of volunteerism and service, conduct and participate in dental outreach programs and community-related activities. We also believe that establishing meaningful relationships between communities and dental professionals should be nurtured as part of our mission to serve.

But given the pandemic, the PDA is in the position to discourage the conduct of community outreach programs and strongly advise that if these programs are very necessary, these have to be kept at a minimum. However, we also believe that, at this point in the pandemic, given what we know and the preventive measures set in place, we may be able to keep ourselves, our patients, and our community safe. We remind our dental professionals that it is vitally important to take all necessary precautions in conducting and participating in outreach programs and community-related activities. It is most advisable that our dental front-liners coordinate with the local government units and community partners to ensure suitable mechanisms for safety and protection.

The PDA continues to strongly advocate that the COVID-19 policies issued by the Department of Health, the Local Government and the PDA COVID-19 Interim Guidelines be strictly followed to mitigate the risks.


DR. MANUEL VALLESTEROS
Public Health Chairman

Noted by:


DR. JOSÉ ANGELO G. MILITANTE
President

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