Interim Protocol for Preventive Dental Care During COVID-19 in Public Health Settings: Reducing Aerosols and Educating Patients

Recommendations for educating patients:

- Explain selective polishing and the causes of stains.
 Counsel patients with tobacco stain and refer to CA Smoker's Helpline: https://www.nobutts.org/.
- Communicate the changes in the procedures to reduce aerosols.
- Discuss the role of an antimicrobial rinse prior to a procedure.
- Encourage healthy habits including daily flossing and brushing 2x day for 2 minutes with a fluoride toothpaste and healthy diet.

Healthy or Maintained Patients Wipe teeth, gums, and Light vestibules with gauze Plaque Plaque Scale & brush patient's teeth Removal with a toothbrush dipped in Heavy an antimicrobial agent. Plaque Other aids can be used such as a rubber tip, proxy brush, or end tuft brush and floss. Educate patient, document in chart, and address at next No appointment Stain Removal In addition to the above, scale & toothbrush. Counsel on Yes cause of stain. Exercise professional judgment if selective polishing is needed. Fluoride Varnish Use toothbrush to clean pits and fissures; cotton tip Preventive and gauze to dry **GI Sealants** tooth surface Care instead of air/water syringe. Utilize glass ionomer (GI) Silver Diamine sealant. Fluoride (SDF)

Note: Avoid or limit polishing on patients presenting with active gingival inflammation; this may exaggerate or worsen chances of bacteremia.