

## PRESS RELEASE

### COVID-19 Crisis and the Impact on Dental Students

Dear EDSA partners and friends,

As you will be aware, the situation regarding COVID-19 has become more serious, with many countries introducing unprecedented measures to help suppress the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes the disease.

Professionalism does not end when we leave the clinic, and as such **we call on dental students to lead by example, by adhering to the advice from their governments** and the following advice the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC 2020):

- Ensure the **regular washing of hands** with soap and water
- **Cough and sneeze into your elbow or a tissue**, throw it into a closed bin and wash your hands
- Ensure **social distancing**
- **If you are symptomatic, self-isolate** and avoid all close contact with others

Our primary concerns are for the safety of students, teachers, professionals and patients. Given the generation of potentially contaminated aerosols and the fact that regular personal protective equipment is insufficient in preventing infection (Meng et. al. 2020), **we call on dental schools to suspend all clinical teaching** if they have not done so already, and to **move non-clinical teaching online** to prevent large gatherings of students and ensure students receive as much of their education as possible.

These are unprecedented times, and we appreciate that some disruption to students cannot be avoided, but **dental schools should ensure that no student is unfairly disadvantaged** and that any changes to assessments and examinations are clearly communicated with adequate notice to students.

COVID-19 will have placed an additional burden on the mental health of dental students at an already stressful time. **We call on universities to ensure adequate student support for students** who may be struggling at this difficult time.

Finally, we **advise that students keep up to date with the latest information** from their governments, the World Health Organisation (WHO), European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) and the CDC (US Centre for Disease Control). These are reliable sources for the latest information regarding the outbreak, which is important given the prevalence of misinformation online. If sharing information about COVID-19, please make sure that it comes from a trustworthy source.

**President**

Tin Crnić

[president@edsaweb.org](mailto:president@edsaweb.org)



**General Secretary**

Daniela Timuş

[secretary@edsaweb.org](mailto:secretary@edsaweb.org)



**VP External Relations**

Tanguy Pinedo-Tora

[vpexternal@edsaweb.org](mailto:vpexternal@edsaweb.org)



**Policy Officer**

James Coughlan

[policy\\_officer@edsaweb.org](mailto:policy_officer@edsaweb.org)



**Prevention Officer**

Maria Mădălina Casapu

[prevention\\_officer@edsaweb.org](mailto:prevention_officer@edsaweb.org)

