



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Oklahoma Dental Association statement on infection control in dental settings**

Recently, a Tulsa area dentist was cited with putting patients at risk of infection with hepatitis by failing to follow proper infection control practices. The Oklahoma Dental Association is closely monitoring the situation.

“Infection control procedures are there for one reason, to protect the patients,” said Dr. C. Todd Bridges, president of the Oklahoma Dental Association. “This alleged breach may have placed patients at risk, and it is clearly an aberration that in no way reflects the way dentists typically operate. The reason this situation is so alarming is because it is so rare.”

The Oklahoma Dental Association recommends that all practicing dentists, dental team members and laboratories follow standard precautions specified by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Examples of infection control in the dental office include the use of masks, gloves, surface disinfectants and sterilizing reusable dental devices.

“We recommend that people talk with their dentists about infection control,” said Dr. Bridges. “Dentists are universally proud of the cleanliness of their offices and will not be offended when patients ask questions about infection control protocols.”

### **About the Oklahoma Dental Association**

Founded in 1907, the Oklahoma Dental Association has a proud membership of more than 1,600 dentist members. The Association was established to help foster an awareness of the obligations and responsibilities of the dental profession to society, to help advance the art and science of dentistry, and to promote public health and health services in the State of Oklahoma. For more information, visit [www.okda.org](http://www.okda.org).

CDC guidelines for infection control can be found here:

[http://www.ada.org/sections/professionalResources/pdfs/guidelines\\_cdc\\_infection.pdf](http://www.ada.org/sections/professionalResources/pdfs/guidelines_cdc_infection.pdf)

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