



THE ASSEMBLY
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The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

May 8, 2020

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I recently had a teleconference with the New York State Dental Association (NYSDA), representing both my Brooklyn and Staten Island constituents, who are anxious to return to the broader practice of dentistry since they voluntarily limited dental services to only emergency dental services during the onset of this health care crisis as related to COVID-19. To offer some clarity, their response and prudence to this pandemic must be applauded since initially their practice would have been considered "essential" under earlier guidelines. NYSDA and their members are now fully prepared to restore all dental services to patients as essential health care services as your administration had fully intended.

The American Dental Association (ADA), working with NYSDA, has a plan for reopening dental offices for all dental services. Their plan which has been shared with the New York State Department of Health is both comprehensive and a thoughtful guide that can be tailored for many other businesses. We can't lose sight of the fact this this profession has always maintained the highest level and use of PPE protection. No other medical practice has such stringent guidelines. These organizations have been successfully dealing with many pandemics and outbreaks including the AIDS crises so I am confident that their efforts to return to work will be both a smooth and positive one.

Patients have also been contacting me with issues that may not be considered an emergency today but left untreated, could be a much worse situation tomorrow. Tooth infections, gum issues, maintenance of braces and the like can lead to significant pain, damage and infection that could require surgery if left untreated. We can trust these professionals to open up their practices utilizing the most stringent guidelines that they have always followed in their practices.

As we start to open businesses in New York, dentists can pave the way for a successful transition back to the norm. This would mean so much to our communities both related to their health care but also to a return to the opening up of more essential services. The professional judgment of these organizations is above reproach as they have always maintained the highest standards of practice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Malliotakis
Member of the Assembly
64th District