

Special Issue

The Impact of COVID-19 on Dentistry and Oral Health: A Global Perspective

Message from the Guest Editors

The world scientific panorama has changed substantially due to the COVID-19 pandemic that is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Especially in dentistry, dental staff is at high risk of COVID-19 contagion because of the closed face-to-face contact with patients and the constant exposure to fluids. This is the reason several recommendations and dental care protocols have been established to increase biosecurity among oral health services (public and private). In addition, social isolation measures have been implemented (although with differences in restrictions and regarding the application times of these measures). These situations have caused various restrictions in oral health care. In this context, the social, labor, and health conditions of dental health workers have changed dramatically. Similarly, the oral epidemiologic profile may be affected in different population groups, and a possible increase in oral health inequities is found.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 March 2022)



International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

CiteScore 8.5
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/78687

*International Journal of
Environmental Research and
Public Health*

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Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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