

ILLINOIS

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Upcoming/Recent Meetings – Speakers/Topics:

- Vertical Problems: Deep Bite and Open Bite Treatment with Clear Aligner Technique: Dr. **Sandra Tai**; *Changed to an on-demand virtual lecture.*
- April 12, 2021: Conference Call for ISO Officer & Trustee elections.

Illinois State Updates:

As I write this report, COVID-19 vaccination distribution to dentists across the state has progressed, after some big stumbles, to the point most dental personnel who want the vaccine have been able to receive it. The Illinois State Dental Society and Chicago Dental Society sent out periodic updates of vaccine distribution, on a county-by-county basis, to its members. The ISDS also lobbied to have dentists and dental hygienists administer COVID-19 vaccines, however the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation chose to only allow dentists to administer the vaccine. The ISDS created a one-hour online training course, that once passed, allows Illinois dentists to administer the COVID-19 vaccine at vaccination sites under the coordination and supervision of a medical facility or local health department.

With in-person meetings greater than 50 people still not allowed in Illinois, the Chicago Dental Society's Midwinter Meeting has gone virtual. The ISDS has also made its Capital Conference in April a virtual meeting, but the hope is to have the Annual Session and House of Delegates in-person this September. Fingers crossed.

The ISDS is asking Illinois dentists to contact their legislators to oppose **House Bill 3360**, which if signed into law, it would result in the following:

- Potential to harm the profession of dentistry by encouraging an explosion of frivolous lawsuits
- Allow plaintiffs to accumulate 9 percent interest for up to 2 extra years
- Unfairly targets those being sued and penalizes them with mounting interest
- Unfairly harms thousands of small businesses (dental offices) which may result in closures and loss of needed healthcare providers.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IDFPR has become aware that opportunities for in-person CE courses have diminished and as a result, licensees may not be able to complete their in-person CE requirements. The IDFPR issued guidance that they are proposing an emergency rule change effective in May 2021 to allow all continuing education (CE) for both Dentists and Dental Hygienists to be completed online either by live, real-time presentations, or through prerecorded video provided by approved CE sponsors. Under current rules, a minimum of 50% of the total CE hours required, being

24 hours for dentists and 18 hours for hygienists, must be obtained through face-to-face, in-person instruction or experience.

Starting in 2020, all Illinois employers are required by law to train employees on sexual harassment prevention by December 31, 2020, and on an annual basis thereafter. This requirement applies to all employers with employees working in Illinois. Separate but related to the employer's responsibility is that one hour of sexual harassment CE credit is required every three-year license renewal period for dentists and hygienists. In addition, dentists with Controlled Substances Registrations are required to complete 3 hours of continuing education (CE) on safe opioid prescribing practices to renew their Controlled Substances Registration.

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