

ILLINOIS

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Upcoming/Recent Meetings – Speakers/Topics:

- October 25, 2021: Dr. **Michael Bicknell** presenting *Harnessing Current Technologies to Enhance Workflow and The Patient Experience*.
- April 8, 2022: Dr. **Drew Ferris** presenting on *Aligner Therapy*.

Illinois State Updates:

- Illinois Governor Pritzker recently issued a mask mandate for indoor settings, although no limits on crowd capacities have been issued. Hopefully, none are forthcoming as the Illinois Society of Orthodontists is planning on holding its meetings in-person for the upcoming year. Virtual was fun, but it is time to get back to normal meetings and fellowship.
- Governor Pritzker also released a new Executive Order 2021-22, which is similar to, but amends, some provisions of the prior Executive Order. Below is a summary:
 - The date by which health care workers must have, at a minimum, the first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or single-dose COVID-19 vaccine has been extended by two weeks to by September 19, 2021 (the date in the prior Executive Order was by September 5, 2021).
- Added that entities may permit health care workers to be present on premises while awaiting the results of a weekly COVID-19 test, as long as the health care worker does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 that warrant exclusion (this was not addressed in the prior Executive Order, should a lag occur between when a test is administered and when a test result is received).

This new Executive Order allows additional time for employers to prepare for complying with this Executive Order. ISDS has held ongoing conversations with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Governor's office on matters requiring clarification and hopes for clarification to be formally provided soon.

- New data and operating systems utilized by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR), led to significant delays in license renewals from normal. This caused great concern for Illinois dentists. Due to ISDS lobbying, the

license renewal deadline has been extended to December 31, 2021. There is no information on when the renewal portal will officially open. Dentists must submit a renewal application for their general dental license, specialty license (if applicable) and controlled substance license. In addition, they must provide proof of current Basic Life Support (BLS) certification and comply with two new mandates passed by the General Assembly on Safe Opioid Prescribing Practices and Sexual Harassment.

On a personal note, this will be my last report as the Illinois Director. Dr. **Randall Markarian** will assume the Illinois Directorship as I move up the MSO ladder to become the Secretary-Treasurer. Randall comes to the MSO with much experience in organized dentistry, serving as a Past-President of the ISDS, serving on ADA and AAO councils, and involvement of numerous additional committees. He will be a wonderful addition to our Board, so please join me in giving him a warm welcome. It has been my pleasure to serve the Illinois Director these past eight years and I look forward to my future duties as an MSO officer.

D. Spencer Pope
Flossmoor, Illinois