

# The development of a consensus document on biosafety practices

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## 1 | PROBLEM

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic imposed new practices to ensure biosafety in Brazilian dental schools. Faculty members, staff, and students are now required to work differently. Wearing face shields, maintaining social distance, avoiding physical contact and touching surfaces; these are only some of the practices recommended in the dental schools.<sup>1</sup> Administrators and faculty members felt sometimes unfamiliar in relation to the required new attitudes and practices,<sup>2</sup> and there was not an official open access resource to guide the new biosafety practices.

## 2 | SOLUTION

The Brazilian Association of Dental Education (ABENO) decided to create a guideline document<sup>3</sup> to act as a reference for dental schools regarding the best practices on biosafety. The ABENO administration took the following steps: (1) invitation for dental schools' deans to enroll faculty members who were interested in collaborating on the biosafety document; (2) enrollment of participants in an online platform (moodle.org through Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul [UFRGS]); (3) sharing documents to serve as a study guide; (4) ABENO members provided the work-methodology to be followed by all participants and the subtopics to be addressed in the document; (5) creation of small groups (for each subtopic) and selection of rapporteurs (a responsible person for a group); (6) discussion

forums and space for collective writing (Wiki-activity); (7) online meetings for all participants; (8) online meetings for rapporteurs; (9) document draft; (10) public consultation using email/questionnaire and remote meeting; (11) new version of document draft; (12) second public consultation; and (13) text formatting and publication of the guideline document by the ABENO members.

## 3 | RESULTS

The open access document, a consensus from the participant Brazilian dental schools (538 persons participated from 178 institutions), was published (in Portuguese only) in July 2020 and it is available at the ABENO webpage.<sup>3</sup> The document collaborates with the public health authorities and the states/federal governments in relation to the decision-making for best biosafety practices inside the dental schools. There are many different dental school profiles around the country and ABENO is aware of this diversity; therefore, the biosafety document can be used as a parameter to ensure enough biosafety rules and to reach optimal/ideal best practices.

The document is divided into 5 main subtopics: (1) clinical setting—this section comprises the strategies to control the amount of aerosol, the rules for gowning and de-gowning the protective person equipment, etc.; (2) flow of patients—this section comprises the strategies to receive persons into the building, the new guidelines for the necessity of further appointments, etc.; (3) daily routine—this comprises the disinfection and sterilization

procedures, management of wastes, and how to behave before, during, and after being in the dental school building; (4) biosafety protocols—this comprises the specific rules for the level of protection needed depending on the dental procedure to be conducted in clinical setting; and (5) training—this comprises information about training sessions on biosafety for health professionals. The document provides a strong basis for all dental communities to support their practices following evidence-based protocols and to improve the COVID-19 situation in the country.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors deny any conflicts of interest.


### FUNDING INFORMATION

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### DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Research data are not shared.

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