

Senate Bill 3190 Teledentistry

**Sponsor: Senator Mattie Hunter
Vote YES to SB3190**

SB3190: Amends the Dental Practice Act to provide the definition of "teledentistry" includes the use of telehealth systems and methodologies in dentistry and dental hygiene, rather than just dentistry.

CDC Calling to Increase Preventive Oral Care to Reduce COVID-19 Deaths:

Governmental studies found poor oral health contributes to COVID-19 deaths. The CDC is now stressing the urgent removal of workforce barriers to enable *Public Health Dental Hygienists* (PHDHs) to increase preventive oral care delivery for populations disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Teledentistry could save lives!
https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2020/pdf/20_0266.pdf

IDPH Oral Health Plan IV: Eliminating Inequities in Oral Health (2021-2025):

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) describes health inequities as human-created unjust, avoidable differences in health status among various population groups. IDPH *Oral Health Plan IV* includes an objective to increase oral care delivery by PHDHs in dental profession shortage areas to reduce oral health inequities.
<https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/publications/idph/topics-and-services/prevention-wellness/oral-health/oral-health-plans/Illinois%20Oral%20Health%20Plan%20IV.pdf>

Teledentistry Increases Access to Oral Care:

Audio-video technology is used to record and transmit patient records to the supervising dentist for evaluation. Data includes consent, payment, medical and dental histories, oral health assessments, radiographs, intraoral and extraoral photos, X-rays, preventive oral care, and education. After receiving preventive care, patients are case-managed for an exam and treatment with the supervising dentist. Teledentistry increases access to care.
<https://oralhealthworkforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/032021a.pdf>

Teledentistry Became Instrumental During the Pandemic:

Good oral health is essential for overall health, yet those disproportionately affected by the pandemic are often the least likely to receive oral care. The pandemic created social distancing protocols which made accessing and providing oral care extremely challenging. Teledentistry enables dentists to “see” off-site patients using their laptop, tablet or smartphone. A study found nearly 25% of dental providers assist patients via telehealth platforms. Teledentistry visits cost 10% less than in-person visits and reduces visits to hospital emergency departments (ED). ED visits cost more and focus on managing pain and infections, not underlying conditions. Many patients to return to the ED with the same problem, costing more. A study found 86% of patients were satisfied with their teledentistry experience and recommend it. [CareQuest Institute teledentistry resource page](#)

Vote YES to SB3190! Improve Access to Oral Care with Teledentistry!

IDHA Legislative Chair: Laura Baus mail@idha.net

IDHA Lobbyist: Jan Starr jstarr@csc-llc.com

Vote Yes to SB3190
SB3190: Teledentistry Increases Access to Oral Care

Thanks to Illinois State Dental Society and Illinois Dental Hygienists' Association
Teledentistry Passed Unanimously to Increase Access to Oral Health Care.

CDC Calling to Remove Workforce Barriers to Increase Access to Oral Care:

Governmental studies found that poor oral health increases COVID-19 mortality rates. The CDC is now calling for workforce barriers to be removed and for *Public Health Dental Hygienists* (PHDHs) to increase preventive oral care for populations disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Teledentistry may reduce COVID-19 deaths. https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2020/pdf/20_0266.pdf

IDPH Working to Eliminate Inequities in Oral Health: IDPH Oral Health Plan IV:

The *Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Oral Health Plan IV: Eliminating Inequities in Oral Health (2021-2025)* describes health inequities as human-created unjust, avoidable differences in health status among various populations. Untreated oral conditions impact overall health and quality of life. One IDPH *Plan IV* objective is to Increase *Public Health Dental Hygienists* (PHDHs) in dental shortage areas to reduce oral health inequities. <https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/publications/idph/topics-and-services/prevention-wellness/oral-health/oral-health-plans/Illinois%20Oral%20Health%20Plan%20IV.pdf>

More Than Half of Illinois Has a Shortage of Dentists:

More than half of Illinois has too few dentists. Most shortage areas have low-income or Medicaid populations. PHDHs are a practical solution for oral health disparities. PHDHs specialize in treating underserved Illinois residents, which makes PHDHs and teledentistry essential for increasing access to care in Illinois. <https://oralhealthillinois.org/data-and-maps/workforce/dhpsas/>

Teledentistry is an IDFPR-mandated PHDH Certification Course:

IDFPR included *Teledentistry* as a PHDH certification course topic. PHDHs are licensed Illinois dental hygienists with additional PHDH certification. Unlike licensed dental hygienists, PHDHs may see patients before their dental exam. Over one-hundred dental hygienists have become PHDHs. PHDHs see patients in Head Start programs; school-based oral health programs; school-based health centers; federal, state, and local health facilities; FQHCs; and Women, Infants and Children programs. PHDHs assess needs, provide preventive care, and case-manage patients for their dental exam and treatment. PHDHs cannot bill for services or work independently. PHDHs are supervised by a licensed Illinois dentist under a written collaborative agreement. PHDHs see patients eligible for Medicaid, are uninsured, and an income less than 200% of the federal poverty level. PHDHs are licensed and certified to see patients of all ages and medical conditions. www.idha.net/phdh

Teledentistry is Used to Assess and Treat Patients:

Teledentistry is used in Illinois dental schools, private dental offices, public dental health clinics, FQHCs, hospitals, and prisons. Prison staff dental hygienists and nurses triage inmates' emergencies with a telehealth consultation with the dentist. The dentist often directs a prison mid-level provider or physician to prescribe medication until the inmate can be seen by the dentist. https://www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/6400_003.pdf

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Questions?