**SAMPLE LETTER**

**for**

**Mandatory Infection Control Education**

**Call to Action**

DATE

NAME OF PERSON WHOM YOU ARE CONTACTING

ADDRESS OF PERSON WHOM YOU ARE CONTACTING

CITY, STATE ZIP CODE OF PERSON WHOM YOU ARE CONTACTING

Dear NAME OF PERSON TO WHOM YOU ARE SENDING THE LETTER,

My name is YOUR NAME, and I am a dental assistant. Dental assistants are an integral member of the oral health care team and play an essential role in infection control and prevention where dental care is provided. Dental assistants are professionals with diverse responsibilities, including the provision of patient care and office/practice management.

As a dental assistant, I am deeply concerned about the health of my patients, my team members, and myself since mandatory education standards in infection control do not exist nationally for dental assistants. This means that someone with no background and knowledge in dentistry and infection control could be working in the dental office, participating in patient treatment and all facets of infection control. The coronavirus pandemic has magnified the importance of this issue and the need for education prior to being responsible for infection control in a dental setting.

**Along with the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA), the professional association representing dental assistants, I believe that the best way to address this lack of a standard education in infection control is to require that ALL dental assistants initially have a minimum of 12 hours of ADA CERP or AGD PACE-approved didactic and 4 hours of clinical education in infection control, including performance evaluation. In addition, it is important to note that OSHA standards require annual infection control education.** Instructional education is readily obtainable through the ADAA; the Professional Dental Assistants Education Foundation (PDAEF); the Dental Advancement through Learning and Education Foundation (the DALE Foundation); and the Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP). Supporting ADAA’s Call to Action, the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB – the nationally-recognized certifying board for dental assistants) requires that all DANB certificants earn a minimum of three (3) continuing education (CE) credits annually, including one (1) CE credit addressing OSHA’s Bloodborne Pathogens Standard and two (2) CE credits addressing federal infection prevention, control and safety requirements and guidelines applicable to dental settings.

With immediate and strong support from you, we can address the need for this minimal standard and help continue to stop the spread of infectious diseases in dental facilities, including the coronavirus, give the patients the care that they deserve, and give oral healthcare workers the protection they need.

If you should have further questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact me at the above email address.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION