

We have known about it since December 2019. It started in China, spread throughout the northern hemisphere, Europe watched and suffered their deaths still astonished in January and February 2020. It started the devastation of lives and dreams in the United States of America also in February this year. It would not take long to affect the Latin American countries, with the first cases in Brazil reported in late February. Almost 90 days after the onset of a fragile social distance in the country, the balance is devastating. The COVID-19 pandemic that plagues the world also affects Brazilians and exposes our worst fractures: social inequality, dismantling of the Unified Public Health System (SUS) that proves to be the best (and only) option to care for the sick and helpless population. There is a rush, while income, health, and lives are lost. An increase in cases of domestic violence and unemployment adds to the exponential growth curves of cases and deaths by COVID-19 across the country.

In this scenario, researchers and faculty of Dentistry courses in the country, confident of their role in society, united by science and with respect and care for everyone's lives, need to think, discuss, know and plan actions for the return to activities of the academic community, following the decisions and definitions of local authorities.

The regional and structural characteristics in the different Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the country are varied, as well as the reality and the possibilities of each Dentistry course to readjust the teaching environments when receiving students, faculty, administrative workers and, not least, patients.

From this common challenge, a solidarity initiative emerged. ABENO, aware of its commitment to Brazilian dental education, provided the opportunity to gather representatives of HEIs with a Dentistry course in Brazil and created a working group in a virtual environment on the Moodle/UFRGS platform as a collaborative network. The result was the construction of a product: 'ABENO Consensus: biosafety in dental education after the COVID-19 pandemic'. The result is virtuous. With a lot of intellectual generosity, dedication and commitment, the representatives of HEIs developed a practical guide for adaptation of the teaching environment; user flows, routines, clinical care and other topics that aim at helping to safely resume activities, based on updated literature (scientific articles, technical notes, resolutions and material from internationally respected institutions such as the American Dental Association, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and others).

It is necessary to highlight the importance of the collaborative network to face the challenges imposed by the moment on all of us: health professionals, professors, students, managers, researchers, citizens. The force of collective work, grounded on knowledge and socially engaged, can help everyone in the renewal of teaching and learning processes in Dentistry. Thinking together, changing together, respecting differences, looking ahead of this distressful time and believing that we will continue to train people with technical excellence, empathy, and commitment to the population health is the force that drives us, the certainty that moves, feeds and transforms each one of us.

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