



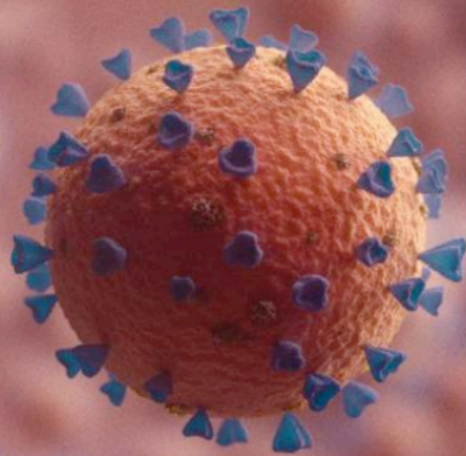
**CONSEJO  
DENTISTAS**  
ORGANIZACIÓN COLEGIAL  
DE DENTISTAS  
DE ESPAÑA

# COVID-19 TESTING AND COVID-19 INFECTION RATE IN SPANISH DENTISTS

**3 SURVEYS CARRIED  
OUT BY THE SPANISH  
DENTAL COUNCIL  
November 2020**



**COVID-19**



## Introduction

The Spanish Dental Council, in view of the situation created by COVID-19, has carried out 3 consecutive survey to obtain data on the prevalence of COVID-19 testing and COVID-19 infection rate in Spanish dentists.

## Survey methodology

- **Type of survey:** online autofill survey
- **Type of study:** descriptive quantitative study
- **Universe of analysis:** all Spanish dentists (39.000)
- **Data collection:** the data from the 3 surveys were collected between April 8-13 (first survey), June 1-12 (second survey) and September 1-14 (third survey).

## Sociodemographic data of samples

The distribution of the 3 samples is representative of all dentists in Spain.

- First survey: the sample consisted of 4.298 participating dentists, with an average age of 42.5 years, with 63% being women and an average professional experience of 18.5 years.
- Second survey: 1.738 dentists, with an average age of 44.5 years, with 67% being women and an average professional experience of 19.5 years.
- Third survey: 2.208 dentists, with an average age of 43.5 years, with 62% being women and an average professional experience of 20.5 years.

## Principal results

### How has your clinical work changed?

In the first survey, 26% of the surveyed dentists have completely stopped working until further notice, 28% are located and only treat emergencies (through telephone triage), 26% only dealing with telephone queries (without face-to-face activity), 16.5% attend their clinic regularly but only treat emergencies, 3.5% perform support functions (in the public sector) and 0.5% state that they continue with their usual clinical activity, treating scheduled patients.

In June 88,5% of the dentists had returned to their professional activity with full normality and 6.5% exclusively attended dental emergencies.

The latest survey in September shows that 91% perform all clinical activities and 7% avoid AGPs.

### What type of mask are you using?

In March-April only 32% of the dentists used the FFP2 mask (68% used surgical mask). In June, 97% used FFP2 mask increasing to 99% in September.

### Are you using eye protection?

In March–April 80% of the respondents used eye protection increasing to 92% in June and 96% in September.

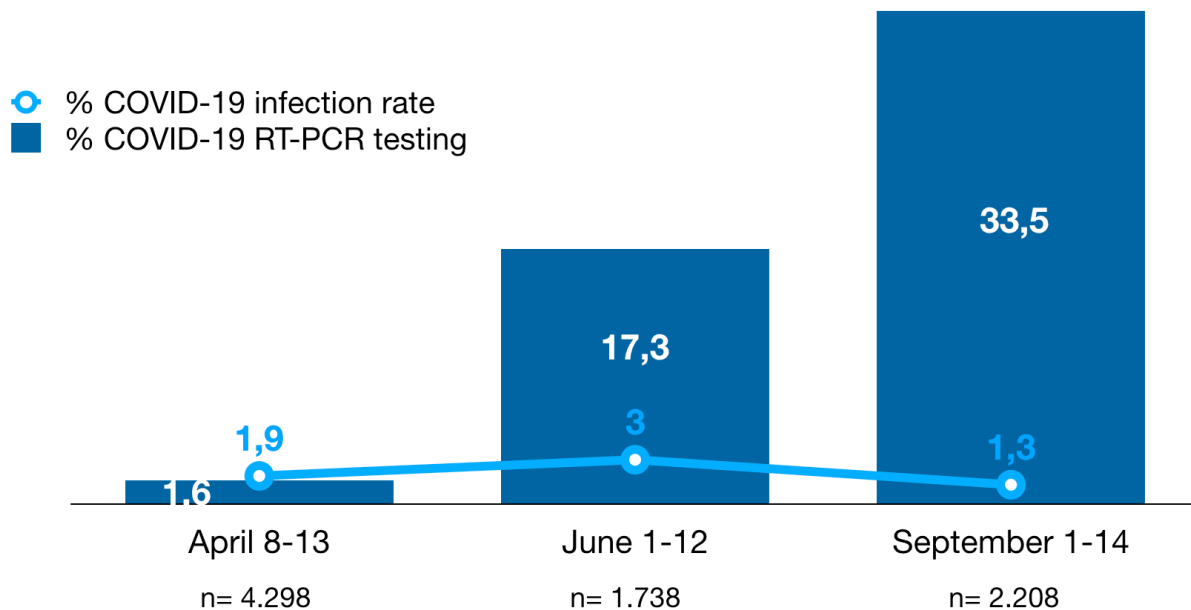
### Evolution of COVID-19 testing

In March–April only 68 dentists (1.6%) had undergone some type of COVID-19 diagnostic test (rapid antigenic test or PCR). In June 17.3% had a PCR and 30.2% a rapid diagnostic test. In September 33.5% of the dentists had a PCR.

### Evolution of COVID-19 infection rate

In March–April 1.9% of the surveyed dentists were diagnosed with COVID-19. In June 3% of the sample was diagnosed with COVID-19 (24 dentists by PCR and another 29 by rapid test). Finally, the September results show a COVID infection rate of 1.3% (30 dentists, all of them diagnosed by PCR).

Prevalence of COVID-19 testing and COVID-19 infection rate in spanish dentists.



## Survey Conclusions

1. the prevalence of Spanish dentists with a COVID-19 diagnostic test has increased considerably in the analysed period (from 1.6% to 33%)
2. the COVID-19 infection rate in Spanish dentists should be considered low
3. the COVID-19 infection rate among dentists is lower than for the rest of the health personnel in Spain
4. the prevention measures and protocols against COVID-19 undertaken in dental clinics may justify these low COVID prevalence data

## ANNEXES

**Annex 1.** Comparative table of sociodemographic characteristics of the Spanish dentists and the samples (sample 1 March–April, sample 2 June and sample 3 September)

| Variable  | Universe | Sample 1 | Sample 2 | Sample 3 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Mean age  | 41       | 42.5     | 44.5     | 43.5     |
| Professional experience<br>(mean number of years) | 17       | 18.5     | 19.5     | 20.5     |
| % of women  | 60%      | 63%      | 67%      | 62%      |

**Annex 2.** Comparative COVID-19 infection rate in Spanish population and Spanish dentists.

| Variable                                       | Spain | Sample 1 | Sample 2 | Sample 3 |
|--|-------|----------|----------|----------|
| COVID-19 infection rate in Spain (end April)   | 6.8%  | 1.9%     |          |          |
| COVID-19 infection rate in Spain (15 June)     | 7.9%  |          | 3%       |          |
| COVID-19 infection rate in Spain (8 September) | 11.8% |          |          | 1.3%     |