

## **An update on NHS dental services at our practice**

As you will know, the Prime Minister has confirmed that public restrictions have been significantly eased on 19th July.

Under the Government's guidance "Health and care settings will continue to maintain appropriate infection prevention and control processes as necessary and this will be continually reviewed. Guidance will be updated based on the latest clinical evidence this summer." You can find this online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-summer-2021-roadmap/covid-19-response-summer-2021#contents> In line with the Government's guidance, England's Chief Dental Officer Sara Hurley has informed us that the infection prevention control measures in dentistry should continue to be followed until further notice.

These are important measures from Public Health England aimed at limiting the spread of the virus in dental settings. We're also continuing to follow NHS dentistry's standard operating procedure which helps us make this guidance work.

### **This means three things for patients:**

1. If you need to come into the surgery for an appointment, please remember that social distancing remains in place in the dental practice and to wear a face covering upon entering the building.
2. We will continue to have restrictions on leaving time between patients to ventilate rooms if we perform an aerosol generating procedure. An aerosol generating procedure (AGP) is a medical procedure that can result in the release of airborne particles (aerosols) from the respiratory tract when treating someone who is suspected or known to be suffering from an infectious agent transmitted wholly or partly by the airborne or droplet route. In dentistry, for example, this means the use of something like a high speed drill. This impacts how many patients we can fit into a working day.
3. We are also following the Chief Dental Officer's advice that we should prioritise patients for treatment based on urgency and priority groups, such as those more at risk of dental disease or children. Similar public health measures are still in place for hospitals and GP practices, too. Every dental practice is working extremely hard to provide care to our patients within the restrictions and guidance to ensure it's safe to visit the dentist. We hope that this helps clarify why these measures are in place for every NHS dental practice. Please do give us a call if you think you need to see us, we're open for patients.

### **Booking a dental visit/Upon your arrival**

Please be advised, Our main door at the practice will remain locked. If you have a booked dental visit, Please call us at the practice when you arrive for your dental appointment. Or you wish to book an appointment, please call 020 7639 3323 or email [enquiries@@dentalcarecentreuk.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@@dentalcarecentreuk.co.uk)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION**