

Statement on Covid-19

Please be assured that dentists are working within the current guidelines issued by governments and are doing their best to help patients wherever possible. Receptionists are also doing their best to ensure that priority cases are treated as soon as possible. We continue to not be able to accept walk-ins and all patients are seen by appointment only.

What are dental appointments like?

Practices are using personal protective equipment such as mask, gloves and aprons and social distancing measures to keep staff and patients safe.

- If you call to make an appointment, you will be asked some screening questions. You'll be asked those same questions again at your appointment to see if anything has changed since you booked
- You will probably be asked to use hand sanitiser or to wash your hands when you arrive (and again before you leave)
- You might also be asked to wear a mask and wait in your car on if arrived by foot stay at two feet distance outside from others
- You will also find that waiting rooms might look a little different with two metre markers in place
- You will be called by your dental nurse and brought to the dental room via our one way system
- You will also notice that the dental team may be wearing different protective equipment to what you are used to seeing – this will be to increase your protection
- Appointments will be managed to allow for social distancing between patients. That might mean that you're offered fewer options for scheduling your appointment.

How you can help:

- Please do not arrive without an appointment
- With the exception of children and persons in need, patients should come alone
- Patients should attend wearing a mask if possible or be prepared to wear one. A distance of at least two metres must be observed if another patient is present in the dental practice
- Please do not arrive early to the practice. If necessary, you should wait outside the practice or wait in your car, when you arrive, you will be asked to complete a screening sheet and medical history
- Staff will not shake your hand
- If you show symptoms following appointment booking, you should contact NHS Test and Trace

It is likely to be some time before dental services can return to what you previously experienced as normal.

However, your dental teams will be doing all they can to ensure you receive the treatment you require in the safest way.

You will be asked the following screening questions when you call to book an appointment and again when you arrive for your appointment:

Screening tool

Appendix 1 to IPC for seasonal respiratory infections in health & care settings (including SARS-CoV-2) for winter 21/22
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1035192/Appendix_1_Sample_Screening_Tool.pdf

Screening questions should be carried out prior to arrival eg by telephone, at a care area or as soon as possible on arrival. If a patient answers 'YES' to any of these questions, they should be put on the respiratory pathway and if treatment can be deferred, reschedule providing this is not detrimental to patient care/treatment plan.

Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q5:
Do you have any of the following symptoms; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High temperature or fever? • New, continuous cough? • A loss or alteration to taste or smell? 	Have you or any member of your household/family had a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 in the last 10 days?	Are you or any member of your household/family waiting for a COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 PCR test result?	Have you travelled internationally in the last 10 days to a country that is on the government red list ?	Have you or any member of your household/family been advised to isolate by any NHS organisation in the last 10 days?

Standard Infection Control Precautions

Section 5.5 IPC for seasonal respiratory infections in health & care settings (including SARS-CoV-2) for winter 21/22
 Section 13 COVID-19: infection prevention and control dental appendix – Updated 24 Nov 21

Must be used by all staff, in all dental care settings, at all times, for all patients:

	Non-respiratory pathway	PPE as per SICIP requirements for ALL dental treatment, INCLUDING AGPs	NO additional precautions are required when undertaking AGPs
	Respiratory pathway	PPE as per SICIP requirements for dental treatment, EXCLUDING AGPs	Additional precautions ARE required when undertaking AGPs