

July 2021 update:

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: [COVID-19 Response: Summer 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-response-summer-2021)

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 are also continuing to follow NHS dentistry's standard operating procedure which helps us make this guidance work.

This means three things for patients:

1. We will continue to follow our **'patient journey'** If you 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. We will continue to ask everyone to use hand gel or wash your hands on entering and leaving the building.
2. We will continue to have restrictions on leaving time between patients to ventilate rooms if we perform an aerosol generating procedure. 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 is safe to visit the dentist. We hope that this helps clarify why these measures are in place for every dental practice. Please do contact us if you think you need to see us, we are open for our patients.