

ISLE OF MAN DENTAL SERVICES
PROCEDURES FOR THE OPERATION OF DENTAL PRACTICES

This document sets out the procedures which links with the dental profession's Standard Operating Procedure (Phase Five SOP) to be followed by all Dental practices in the Isle of Man with effect from 29th March 2021, taking into account the current Covid-19 status of the Isle of Man and the latest Primary Care Guidance.

1. Practice Premises

- 1.1 Requirements for social distancing should be in strict compliance with the social distancing guidance [here](#).
- 1.2 Hand sanitiser to be available in prominent positions within the practice premises.
- 1.3 Signage encouraging the regular use of sanitisers by staff and patients.
- 1.4 Practices should operate a closed door policy but with a clear communication to patients that it is still open for business.

2. Infection Control

- 2.1 Strict adherence to the appropriate Infection Control Policies and Procedures.

3. Making Appointments & Risk Assessing Patients

- 3.1 When contacted by a patient the Practice needs to use the Covid questions as set out in the "Primary Care Guidance" and listed below in (Appendix A), to identify whether a patient is high or low risk.
- 3.2 If a patient is low risk they can be treated as normal.
- 3.3 If a patient is high risk, the first response is AAA, and the patient should be asked to make contact with the Practice again once they fall into the low risk category.
- 3.4 If the patient is high risk and a AAA approach is not sufficient and physical treatment is required, the dental practice must follow the "Standard Operating Procedure for Dental High Risk Patients" which outlines the procedures and requirements for treating high risk patients in a dental setting.
- 3.5 All types of dental treatment can be carried out for low risk patients, with high risk patients receiving emergency dental treatment only.
- 3.6 When making an appointment, patient to be asked the Covid questions (Appendix A) as set out in the "Primary Care Guidance". Patients who answer

'no' to each of the questions are considered **low risk** and can be seen for their routine dental care. Patients who answer 'yes' to any of the questions are considered **high risk** and as above will be treated initially with the AAA approach or via procedures for treatment as per the "Standard Operating Procedure for Dental High Risk Patients".

- 3.7 Patients who are symptomatic for covid-19 should be directed to undertake a self-assessment via <https://covid19.gov.im/about-coronavirus/symptoms-and-self-assessment/> which will direct the patient for appropriate care.
- 3.7 It is compulsory that dental professionals, staff and patients wear face masks at all times.

4. Patient Arrival at Practice Premises and subsequent treatment

- 4.1 Patients, and anyone accompanying them (applicable in the case of children or vulnerable adult patients) should be asked the Covid questions upon arrival at the practice to ensure they are still considered low risk.
- 4.2 Patients should be asked to sanitise their hands on arrival.
- 4.3 Patients and staff should socially distance whilst in the Practice, with the exception of when receiving dental treatment.
- 4.4 Dental Practices are responsible to ensure that a safe number of patients are in their practice at any one time.
- 4.5 Adequate fallow time must be adhered to (this will likely vary from approximately 20 minutes or less if the practice knows their number of air changes per surgery).

5. PPE

- 5.1 There is a requirement for patients, staff and dental professionals to wear masks at all times.
- 5.2 Dental professionals should be following the PPE guidance as set by the Department for use in a primary care setting [here](#)

Risk Assessment

Every practice should carry out a risk assessment in line with their insurance and professional association for all elements of the practice.

Covid-19 Questions

To update the current guidance to reflect the above and update the Covid Questions – suggestion as follows:

- a) Do you have a new or persistent cough?
- b) Do you have a fever or temperature over 37.8C?
- c) Do you have a change in your sense of smell or taste?
- d) Are you suffering with new shortness of breath?
- e) Have you had contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 21 days?
- f) Have you travelled off-Island in the last 21 days?

Supplementary Questions for dental and optical: Have you had a Covid Test on days 1, 6 and 13? Negative results? Can be seen as 'low risk' from Day 14 onwards if the answer is yes, consider as 'high risk' if the answer is no and treat via AAA approach where possible. If high risk patient needs to be seen appropriate facilities are already available to ensure patients are seen safely.

- g) Is there anybody currently in your household isolating?