

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 19th April 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 Hand sanitiser to be available in prominent positions within the practice premises.
- 1.2 Signage encouraging the regular use of sanitisers by staff and patients.
- 1.3 Practices are open for business as usual for all **low risk** patients and should follow the procedures when treating **high risk** patients.

2. Infection Control

- 2.1 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 19.04.21" 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 19.04.21". 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.

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.

5. PPE

- 5.1 Dental professionals should be following the PPE guidance as set by the Department for use in a primary care setting <https://covid19.gov.im/public-health-guidance/>

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

Prior to any appointment being offered, and on arrival for an appointment, patients must be asked the following questions:

- a) Do you have a new or continuous cough? (this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours – if the patient usually has a cough it may be worse than usual)
- b) Do you have a fever or temperature of more than 37.8C?
- c) Do you have a loss of or a change in your normal sense of smell or taste?
- d) Do you have a new onset of shortness of breath?
- e) Have you travelled to the Isle of Man in the past 21 days, or travelled to the Isle of Man in the past 14 days and are awaiting a swab result at either day 1, 6 or 13?
- f) Have you been advised to isolate for any reason?
- g) Are you living in a household with someone awaiting a COVID-19 swab or result?