

## Coronavirus – November 2021 Update

Although many guidelines have been lifted by the government surrounding coronavirus, guidelines for healthcare settings remain unchanged. Therefore we will still be screening patients beforehand on relevant Covid questions, taking temperatures and asking patients to sanitise their hands. Masks or face coverings will still be required, unless exempt.

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.

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. We are working extremely hard to provide care to our patients within the restrictions and guidance to ensure it's safe to visit the dentist. Therefore this has resulted in significant waiting times for treatments.

We currently cannot take on any new patients, but this will be reviewed in the New Year. We thank all our patients for their co-operation and understanding during this time.