

## COVID-19

### Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (27-3-2020)

Firstly I would like to thank each and every one of you, in all parts of our services, for your help, support and commitment this week. The team work that has been demonstrated is incredible and I cannot express how grateful and proud I am as we make this transition to emergency services operated from GDH and our satellite hubs.

There are no significant changes to my update yesterday and the pathways for emergency dental care of patients is working well.

In this period of change and anxiety NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has been developing a range of educational resources in relation to health and wellbeing. Below is the link to the TURAS Learn site which you may find helpful. <https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/27993/coronavirus-covid-19>

You may be aware of some medical specialist society advice that conflicts with current Board policy for PPE and in view of the resultant questions from teams providing care I have been focusing over the last few days on researching and reviewing guidance on PPE and I would anticipate being able to circulate some thoughts on Monday.

### GDS

The offers of help and supplies continue to come in thick and fast, I really do appreciate your support.

We are still looking for PPE supplies and for those that have already kindly offered we will be making arrangements to contact you next week about picking up any supplies.

**Any practices with PPE and implant kits including surgical gowns please contact [GDSadmin@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:GDSadmin@ggc.scot.nhs.uk) with the subject as PPE and include the following details along with your practice address and mobile number**

Nitrile Gloves	No.	Face Masks	No.	Others	No.
XS		Type II		Surgical/implant gowns/kits	
S		Type IIR		Alcohol wipes	
M		FFP1		Detergent wipes	
L		FFP2		Visor shields	
XL		FFP3		Hand sanitiser	

Telephone triage from GDS dentists appears to be working well and the PDS Special Care Hub team has enjoyed good communication with referrers bar none. Please refer to the triaging guidance that was previously issued.

Can I please remind you the PDS Special Care Hub telephone number is for dentists to use for referral purposes **only** and should not be provided to patients or left on an answer phone message. Equally

**Stay Safe and Look After One Another**

NHS24 number 111 should only be provided on answer phone messages for patients to access care during the out of ours periods, 6.00pm- 8.00am, weekends or public holidays.

May I specifically remind orthodontic practices that they too require to telephone triage their own emergencies and only refer into our PDS Special Care Hub after careful consideration and in person.

As mentioned yesterday, we have received a fantastic response, over 500 returns, to the questionnaire we issued to allow any staff within the practice who would be willing and able to volunteer to help support PDS/HDS services. Over the coming days we will be contacting some of you with a view to arranging some orientation for various sites and allocating duties as patient traffic through various sites is established. We may also call on colleagues to support our non-dental community medical / nursing services where appropriate. For the avoidance of any doubt, can I be clear that this would be on a voluntary basis.

Just a reminder, now that practices are closed we have received confirmation that your weekly activity returns which Scottish Government had planned to support the financial arrangements are no longer required.

Attached is a list of Frequently Asked Questions for GDS which we have developed. I hope you will find this useful, it will also be added to the website.

**Please continue to monitor your practice NHS mail account daily. We are now also issuing all communications to individual NHS.net accounts via our LDC colleagues.**

#### **PDS**

The PDS Special Care Hub has been working very well and thank you to all those involved in setting this up and staffing it.

Work has been ongoing to establish the COVID response team. We have successfully undertaken a dry run for both GGEDS and PDS.

I will circulate my next update on Monday 30-3-2020. Keep safe over the weekend.

***Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry***