

COVID-19

Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (2-4-2020)

Many thanks to those of you who have fed back comments about these updates. These are very welcome. I am hoping that into next week, with our processes and systems in place, we can perhaps reduce the volume / length of communications being issued to you from us here in the Oral Health Directorate.

GDS

- Thank you to everyone who responded to the call for volunteers to support telephone triage with NHS24. The names and contact details will be passed over to colleagues at NHS 24 and they will contact you directly if required.
- By the end of this week will have 16 GDPs who have attended PDS sites for orientation and by the end of next week this should be over 40. Getting this first cohort of volunteers in early has been helpful, allowing us to refine the induction process. This should mean that they can begin to support PDS colleagues staffing the “cold” non-covid urgent dental care centres very soon.
- PCA(D)(2020)7 - COVID-19 - Revised Financial Support Measures - 2 April 2020 the formal notification of the revised financial support has now been issued to all practices. We have also been asked to highlight paragraph 15 of the memo, particularly for private practices and dental labs and for practices with mixed provision. The expectation is that practice owners, and dental accountants, will need to look at the details of each scheme and, taking cognisance of their particular circumstances, determine the most sustainable funding package for the practice.
- We are working on some ‘self help’ information for patients, which we hope to be able to share with you within the next few days that will be placed on our external website to which you might wish to direct patients.
- You may be aware of the new CDO “General Dental Practitioner Leadership Fellowship”. I can confirm that we have identified two preferred applicants and we are now going through due HR process. I am pleased to say the quality of applicants was extremely high.

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 triage flowchart for the management of patients during COVID is being finalised and will be circulated as soon as it is available.
- We are finalising a Standard Operating Procedure and currently testing “Attend Anywhere”, the videoconferencing facility for patients to interact with our teams visually. As we have said this will be invaluable for adding value to our patient contact for triaging especially for dental trauma and facial swellings. We are working towards this being fully operational by the end of this week or early next week.

HDS

- The Secondary Care Covid Control Centre is now fully operational and handling calls. The “Attend Anywhere” system is also being scoped for use for secondary care patients and our “hot” Covid risk triaging. Further training for staff to be involved in the hot cases continues and is being refined to minimise risk to our teams and to other patients.
- We are extremely grateful to the dental laboratory in the Dental Hospital that is working hard to attempt 3D printing for visor frames. The frames required for FFP3 respirators worn for AGP’s (different to dental visors) are in short supply and any in-house solutions may well become invaluable.

Keep yourselves, friends and family safe,

Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry