

COVID-19

Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (17-4-2020)

We've come to the end of another busy week, although I do feel it has been somewhat calmer, I hope this is also the case for all of you. As I have said I think, in no small part due to the continued hard work and support of teams in all areas, we are as prepared as we can be and coping well.

I feel that we are now moving into the next phase in our strategy for coping with this current emergency situation. Our established pathways have worked well for us so far, but moving forward some patients, having had a AAA approach are returning for further treatment. This in conjunction with the probable increase in Covid patients requiring emergency dental care will mean capacity need increased. This will involve widening the pool of staff we have available to us and full utilisation of the HDS, PDS and GDS teams in the provision of primary emergency dental care. In addition the triage process will need to be simplified to avoid double or sometimes triple triage. This is labour intensive and unnecessary and will be a focus for streamlining the process as we require more capacity.

- We are still looking for PPE, in particular Type IIR masks and implant PPE kits including surgical gowns. We are hoping to try and distribute these throughout the wider NHS family, including acute sites and Care Homes. If you have any, which you can donate, could you please contact GDSadmin@ggc.scot.nhs.uk with the subject as PPE and include the amount you have available, the practice address and a mobile number. Once again my thanks for your help and support.
- I have been advised that staff ID badges are acceptable identification if you are, at any time, stopped by Police Scotland to enquire as to why you are travelling. Those GDS colleagues who do not have ID badges are being issued with key worker status letters.
- Our Health Improvement Teams have been delivering toothbrushing resources to the educational hubs for children of essential workers. They are also looking to provide adult toothbrushes and toothpaste for care packages for NHS and Care Home staff who are staying away from home.
- I don't want to end on a sad note but I am acutely aware that a number of staff within the directorate and throughout the wider GDS community have been affected by the loss of family members and friends due to COVID. I wanted to express my sincere condolences; our thoughts are with you all at this sad time.

*Have a peaceful weekend,
Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry*