

Lifting of Emergency Restrictions in Dentistry

The Dental Council would like to thank all dental health care professionals for their commitment to providing safe clinical care in what is an unprecedented situation. The Council recognises this continues to be worrying and stressful time for all members of the dental team.

Now that Government has announced that some of the restrictions placed on society are being lifted from 18 May, including some of the general restrictions on dental care, the Dental Council is cognisant that the profession would like to resume providing a safe and caring environment for their patients. Because the risk of COVID-19 remains, many of the restrictions that were introduced to delay and mitigate the spread of the disease are likely to remain in place for some time to come.

The Dental Council recognises that it will be necessary for the dental team to ensure that:

- the guidance to ensure social distancing and other protection measures are observed in the public areas of your practice, for example in reception areas and waiting rooms.
- Within the dental surgery you should follow national guidance and take appropriate precautions to minimise the risk of infection.

The Dental Council would like to commend the HPSC's 'Guidance on Managing Infection Related Risks in Dental Services in the Context of the COVID-19 Emergency' published on the 15 of May to the profession as the authoritative national advice on managing a return to a more routine form of dentistry following the lifting of the emergency restrictions.

Your professional judgement remains key and you should follow your professional judgement and assess risks when deciding on the best care for your patients.

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