

The Dental Council recognise that many members of the dental team are worried about the continued spread of the coronavirus and are concerned for their own safety and the safety of their families, staff and patients. It is important to note that the Department of Health rather than ourselves are tasked with managing the pandemic and risk control, including in dentistry.

Advice of this nature requires specific expert input and the department is liaising with the relevant expert bodies in order to develop this guidance. The Dental Council is contributing to this effort and is committed to working with NPHE (National Public Health Emergency Team) in any way it can. The Chief Dental Officer (CDO) has written to all dental health care professionals with advice on providing dental treatment in the present environment.

We are aware of the differences of opinion within dentistry on this matter and we are also aware that the CDO's advice has been approved at all the appropriate clinical levels in the NPHE hierarchy. Ireland's response to the pandemic is aimed at reducing risk and exposure and not putting people (dentists, their staff and patients) at needless risk.

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