

COVID-19

Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (24-4-2020)

Well we have all made it through another week, hopefully taking us a little closer to resuming some sort of normality, whatever “normal” will be in the future.

My thanks again to all of you, the team effort and willingness to get involved is a real credit and I will not apologise for the number of times I say how proud I am that we are being seen as one of the foremost centres of Urgent Dental Care during this crisis in the UK. We even had a mention from the First Minister in answer to a question from a member of the public this week.

Reassignment of staff

I am acutely aware that many of you have volunteered to take on other roles or had the discussions with your line managers about reassignment and may not have had any outcome/feedback about this. I appreciate this can be a little frustrating or cause a degree of anxiety. We know that you are keen to be involved and the vast majority want to help in whatever way they can.

The good news is that the situation appears to have reached a plateau sooner than anticipated and at this point in time there is only a little need to move staff to other areas. However, as we all know this is an ever changing situation, we are still receiving requests to support the wider NHS family and a time may come when we will call on you to get involved and I know that you will rally to this call.

- Thank you to those of you already participating with the new GDS triage form. This will be a learning experience for all of us and where possible I will provide you with feedback/hints/tips to help expedite the patient journey. If x-rays/photographs are available please try and send them with the referral, in particular for patients requiring an extraction. Prolonged waiting for separate x-ray emails can really slow our processes down to get these patients (often in pain) seen as soon as possible. If x-rays are being sent separately please make sure the usual identifiers of site, date of exposure and patient details are included.
- Prior to the enforced closure of dental practices you may have received information from dental suppliers on how to decommission your equipment and make safe for storage. The DPAs have had input into the following SDCEP guidance which helps with other aspects of practice maintenance and admin which may be of additional help;

Dental Practice Closure During COVID-19 Pandemic. This guide comprises a checklist of points to consider when practices are to be closed for an extended period. Two parts are included in this version:

- Part A: Actions to consider at closure
- Part B: Points to consider during practice closure

A third part on reopening will be added once the circumstances of reopening dental practices have become clearer.

- Can I also remind you that direct referrals to GDH are only for trauma (avulsion/ luxation), bleeding and severe swelling. Referrals for anything else, such as an extraction of a broken tooth, should go through the PDS Special Care Hub. This keeps this line free for SDCEP “emergency” cases that need seen within the hour.
- We continue to look 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.
- Given the difficult time that we are experiencing, this year more than others, we might want to ensure that we try to hold the minutes silence for International Workers Memorial Day on Tuesday.



Continuing with our positive pictures, here are our colleagues at Gorbals Health and Care Centre. A very happy group but that may be just because it's Friday!



Our Health Improvement Team distributed some PPE to Cosgrove Care, where as you can see it was well received by staff members Shannon Lynn, Karen McKenzie and Gemma Mitchell



Have a good weekend
Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry

Stay Safe and Look After One Another