

COVID-19

Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (7-4-2020)

- We have today been advised that NHS 24 will **NOT** be covering Good Friday and Easter Monday public holidays. Saturday 11th April and Sunday 12th April (Easter Sunday) will be covered as a normal weekend.

I therefore have to ask our GDS colleagues to continue to triage their patients as they have been doing on Friday 10 April and Monday 13 April and to follow the current established pathway. If a patient requires to be seen they should be referred via the PDS Special Care Hub. We will arrange for the PDS Special Care Hub to be operational on these days and can augment the PDS capacity with GDPs. Our programmed GGCEDS out of ours service will continue as normal during the daytime and no evening service will be provided.

- Last night was the first of the amended start time for GGCEDS to 5.30pm. This seemed to work well, with 4 patients from the day time service being added to the GGCEDS list. 12 patients were triaged and 4 attended.
- My congratulations and thanks to the staff within the dental labs at GDH who, having worked innovatively, are now in a position to manufacture full face visors to help boost our PPE supplies.
- I have had a number of discussions with senior clinical colleagues about the use of appropriate PPE. I intend to issue a letter to all clinical staff within the directorate to confirm while we are waiting on further clear guidance staff may use FFP3 masks for dental extractions as part of their PPE. This is to provide additional reassurances at this time of anxiety. Adherence to the HPS and PHE guidance on the other hand is mandatory.
- We have been asked to identify GDS teams who may be prepared to volunteer to support the work of the Community Assessment Centres (CAC). In conjunction with the teams of healthcare professionals already staffing these centres GDPs would act as senior clinical decision makers. There are no aerosol generating procedures being carried out in the CACs, oxygen is being administered and there is no requirement for FFP3 masks. If you have previously volunteered you may therefore be contacted to confirm if you are happy to be assigned as assistance in this area within the wider NHSGGC family.
- We have received directions (attached) from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport regarding the provision of indemnity to staff engaged in responding to the coronavirus outbreak. I hope this helps to clarify the position for our GDS colleagues who are supporting us.
- Testing for staff who have been identified as self isolating because they have family members with symptoms is now underway for dental teams.
- I understand that there will be a call going out nationally for volunteers which will be co-ordinated by NES. We will ensure that this information is cross referenced with those of you who had already completed the survey which we circulated last week seeking volunteers locally.

Stay Safe,
Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry

Stay Safe and Look After One Another