

COVID-19 Recovery Guidance

Planning for Re-Opening Things to Consider

The purpose of the interim guidance is to provide practical steps to help support and prepare members as the government plans to reduce some of the restrictions associated with the national lockdown and we move to the COVID- 19 recovery phase.

It is important to highlight that these documents should be read in conjunction with latest guidance:

- [England: COVID-19 guidance and standard operating procedure](#)
- [Wales: Welsh Government: Dental care during the COVID- 19 pandemic: guidance for teams](#)
- [Scotland: Health Protection Scotland- COVID-19 guidance for primary care](#)
- [Northern Ireland: COVID-19 information](#)
- [GDC: COVID- 19 latest guidance for England](#)

The advice provided by these guidance documents will be updated or potentially withdrawn as more information becomes available especially if new national guidelines are issued.

It is unlikely that you will simply be able to reopen your appointments diary and continue as before.

Here are some areas for you to consider:

- **Do you have a list of priority patients you need to see first?**
- **How will you minimise risk to staff and patients?**
- **How will you practice social distancing and minimise the number of people in the practice at any one time?**
- **Do you have sufficient PPE to be able to operate safely?**
- **How long will your stock of PPE last and do you have plans for a supply chain?**
- **What additional cleaning measures will be required and how will this impact your practice?**
- **Will all your team be able to return on time to support the practice reopening?**
- **How will you handle emergency appointments going forward? Patients, have become used to dealing with their own orthodontic emergencies so is this an opportunity to continue this way?**

- **If you are unable to undertake Aerosol Generating Procedures, will you delay bond-up's, de-bond's and other procedures? What are the alternatives? How will you explain this to patients?**
- **Will your lab be at full capacity to allow you to schedule appointments as usual?**
- **Are there any benefits in changing the way you operate to trial new and improved ways of working? For example new IT systems**

As you can see, if plans are put in place now, it will make it easier to manage patient expectations and help support team members. Considering these topics will also make your patient communications clearer and allow you to brief your team and prepare patient information ready for when you reopen.