

Leicestershire & Rutland LDC Saturday 3rd October 2020

Management of COVID-19 case in dental primary care settings- Staff Who Test Positive for COVID – What to Do

COVID-19 is a notifiable disease. Healthcare providers should notify PHE of any confirmed In circumstances where there is a staff absence due to COVID-19 within a dental setting and this is likely to impact on service delivery, providers must notify NHE England via a [Notification of COVID-19 Service Disruption and/or Outbreak in Primary Care form](#).

There is no requirement to complete the form for single cases where it is not likely to impact on service delivery. The form must, however, be completed if the practice becomes aware of two or more positive cases in staff or members of the public who have attended their premises.

Upon receipt of the above form, NHSE will ensure that a clinical adviser contacts the provider where additional information, support or advice is required. Providers may need to complete a separate reporting form and advice and guidance will be offered to the provider during this call.

For the avoidance of doubt, Public Health England must be informed of all positive cases in a healthcare setting. Public Health England contact details for reporting positive cases are included within the attached SOP.

- Practices need to be aware of the importance of social distancing between staff – there have been a number of cases recently in practices where staff are having to isolate due to contact between colleagues rather than with patients.
 - Please take necessary precautions when travelling into work (car sharing without PPE is an issue)
 - Be aware of accidental close contact with colleagues during lunch breaks or smoking breaks – remember the 2 metre rule or wear PPE
 - Be careful about strict social distancing when meeting people outside work

- NHSE is hearing anecdotally that some increases in staff infections are where NHS staff are forcing themselves to come into work even when feeling unwell. It's important that staff know that they shouldn't continue working if they are ill.

- If you do have a a staff member who is symptomatic then you should follow the guidance in the updated SOP (see attached) and contact PHE in the first instance for support.

PHE East Midlands

Telephone: 0344 2254 524, press the option the Health Protection Team

Email*: ICC.EastMidlands@phe.gov.uk

**All urgent enquiries should be telephoned.*

- You should in any case notify your local NHS area team for any situation where services to patients are affected and inform us of the steps you are taking through your business continuity plans to minimise disruption to services.

NHS Test and Trace

The NHS Test and Trace service aims to trace the spread of the virus and isolate new infections. Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19 must self-isolate (along with other members of their household) and is asked to order a test to find out if they have COVID-19. If they test positive, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and asked to share information promptly about their recent contacts so that other people who may need to self-isolate can be alerted. If a healthcare worker is confirmed to be a positive case, it is important that they declare that they are a healthcare worker when contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

NHS Test and Trace operates a 3-tier system. Where it is known that the case is a healthcare worker (HCW), those cases will be dealt with by Tier 1 which includes Public Health England's (PHE) local Health Protection Team (HPT). The HPT will receive notification of the case and contact the setting and support the healthcare team to identify and provide advice to the healthcare-related contacts of the positive case (as detailed below). Other contacts of the positive case, for example, household or social contacts, will be managed separately via Tiers 2 and 3.

The free NHS COVID-19 app is a vital part of the NHS Test and Trace service in England. However, you should be aware that clinicians are advised to pause contact tracing on the app, when practising infection prevention and control, and wearing correct PPE by disabling the Bluetooth function or turning off the app whilst working in practice.

Remember to turn contact tracing back on, once you leave this situation and are no longer fully protected from other people.

Shielding

Shielding advice was lifted in most parts of the country on 1 August 2020. This meant that the vast majority of people considered clinically extremely vulnerable are no longer being advised to shield. Because of the local lockdown, Leicester City was an exception and locally shielding advice remained in place but will be lifted from 5 October.

Treatment for non-regular patients

All NHS general dental providers are required to continue providing remote AAA telephone tier 1 triage e.g. advice, analgesia and antibiotics for those patients with an urgent need without a regular dentist.

If as a result of the telephone triage the patient is considered to require an urgent face to face appointment they should be offered the next available slot, whether or not they have been treated on the NHS previously at the practice. Contractors have been advised by the NHS to prioritise patients with urgent care needs. NHS England advice is that the sequencing and scheduling of patients should take into account the urgency of needs; the particular unmet needs of vulnerable groups and practices' available capacity to undertake activity.

Remember that providing an urgent appointment (1.2 UDAs) is a one-off and does not commit you to have to undertake all of the treatment required by the patient or to have to see the patient again in the future.

Year-End Reconciliation for GDS and PDS contracts

Since the year-end letters were published in Compass, an exceptional circumstance as a result of COVID-19 for the Year-End 2019/20 Reconciliation has come to light. As a result, it has been decided that all contracts will be reviewed so that any which may have been impacted will have all exceptional circumstances considered.

The exceptional circumstance relates to the reconciliation of the March 2020 time period and will now be calculated to include 21 March to 31 March 2019; this will be added to the 1 March to 20 March 2020 position. If a contract has been identified as being affected, NHS England and the BSA will be in contact in due course with details of the year-end position being revised.

If an underperformance recovery needs to be amended, the BSA will recalculate based on the new position and any instalments already taken. This will mean remaining instalments will not commence until the 1 December pay (November schedule). Any carried forward activity will also be adjusted as necessary.

EDEN

Don't forget to register your interest for eDEN, the cloud-based reporting platform for Providers and Practice Managers, which will enable them to NHSBSA information on dental contracts, including performer level detail, on a cumulative monthly basis.

The NHSBSA is aiming to launch eDEN for Providers and Practice Managers next month. To register, just complete the registration form on the [website](#).

Influenza Vaccine

Ensure you and your team reduce the risk to yourselves, your practice, your patients, your families, and the NHS by getting vaccinated as soon as possible.

For dental teams the vaccine should be provided and funded by your employing organisation as part of their policy for the prevention of transmission of infection to protect patients, staff, and visitors. It will not be provided free of charge by the NHS.

However, some staff in dental teams will be able to get the vaccine for FREE on the NHS at their GP practice, local pharmacy, or midwifery service (if they are pregnant). They include:-

- adults 65 and over
- people with certain medical conditions (your GP can assess if you are in a clinical risk group and take into account the risk of flu making any underlying illness you may have worse, as well as your risk of serious illness from flu itself)
- pregnant women
- people living with someone who is at high risk from Coronavirus (on the NHS shielded patient list)

- this year a free vaccine is also to be made available for people aged 50 to 64 later in the year should there be availability.

Freedom to Speak up webinar

Leicestershire & Rutland Local Dental Committee has established independent Freedom to Speak Up Guardians, who can help or advise without breaking confidentiality.

If you're a practice leader, a Practice Manager, or any member of a practice team, you can learn more about Freedom to Speak Up, and how it can help you, your practice and your team colleagues, by joining the LDC Freedom to Speak Up webinar on Wednesday 11th November at 6.45pm (see attachment)