



REOPENING POLICY

COTTAGE DENTAL
PRACTICE

POST COVID-19 REOPENING POLICY

Firstly, we would like to thank all our patients for their support and understanding over the last couple of months. Understandably it has been a difficult time for everyone. There have been severe restrictions on dentistry during the pandemic, but we have done our best to look after our patients needing emergency care during this period.

The government have now announced that dental practices can reopen again from the 8th June 2020. As a practice we have always maintained gold standard cross-infection procedures. Some of these procedures will now be updated in accordance with new recommendations following COVID-19 pandemic. As a practice we plan to go above and beyond what is required to ensure the health and safety for both our patients and the team.

This policy has been created based on multiple updated sources from within the dental and medical professions and the government.

It outlines modifications to our normal procedures that we intend to employ once the practice can be reopened following the COVID-19 pandemic peak has subsided.

It is not known at this time whether these procedures will be temporary or whether they will become a permanent feature of the way dental practices must be run to ensure patient and staff safety going forward.

The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic is still being evaluated and studied, therefore, policies and recommendations are likely to change over time as new scientific evidence emerges.

We will of course be providing dental care to all our patients in the safest possible environment. We greatly appreciate your assistance with any new or modified procedures at the practice.

Once again, thank you all for your support and understanding.

Cottage Dental Practice Team.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE



The Cottage Dental Practice Team will prepare the practice for reopening and carrying out full training in our updated procedures before patients return to the practice.

We will initially be seeing:

- Patient with emergency problems or other dental issues that require urgent assessment and treatment.
 - Patients with treatment that was not completed prior to lockdown
 - Patients who were due for routine examinations and hygiene visits during the period of closure
 - Patients who are due orthodontic reviews.
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The background of the top section is a photograph of a red brick building with white-framed windows. The words "COTTAGE DENTAL PRACTICE" are visible on the brickwork above one of the windows.

NEW MEASURES

REDUCING THE RISK OF COVID-19 TRANSMISSION

Our normal cross-infection control procedures at The Cottage Dental Practice against all previously known pathogens are already carried out to the highest standard during all clinical activity at the practice.

It should be remembered that a dental practice is already a very clean environment compared to public areas and there is no evidence of COVID-19 transmission occurring in increased rates in dental teams.

We have collectively evaluated all of the updated guidance and observed the measures that have been put in place in other countries. We feel that the measures which are outlined in this policy will reduce risk to the minimum level at the practice.

Please be assured that all our clinical staff will also be complying with our updated procedures to reduce risk of transmission in both directions.

BEFORE YOUR APPOINTMENT

We will carry out a pre-attendance assessment in the days leading up to your appointment. If we feel that you are at risk of having possibly been infected, even if you are asymptomatic, we will respectfully ask that you delay booking any appointment with us for at least a month in order to protect our team and other patients.

We recommend that patients in high-risk groups for developing complications from COVID-19 delay any non-essential dental treatment for as long as possible until the trend of the pandemic becomes clear. If you are in a high-risk group and do require treatment we will schedule your appointment at the beginning of the day. More information for people considered in high risk group can be found [here](#)

The Cottage Dental Practice will be operating a cashless payment system, utilising contactless card payments where possible.

When travelling to the practice, we would recommend that you continue to follow social distancing guidelines and avoid close contact with other members of the public as much as possible..

We ask that you attend the practice on your own where possible and that children attend with just one adult only, without additional family members.

ARRIVING AT THE PRACTICE

when you attend the practice, we will welcome you and ask you to leave your coat or jacket at the entrance. The front door will remain locked, however, we cannot accept liability for personal items so please limit what you bring into the building.

We will take your temperature using an infra-red no-touch thermometer . If your temperature is above 37.8°C, we will require you to delay your appointment and you will be asked to return home and self-isolate as per current government guidelines.

We will taken you straight through to the surgery and request that you do the following before and after treatment:

- Use hand sanitiser provided
- We may ask you to use an anti-septic mouthwash before some treatments
- Rubber dam or other barrier mechanisms will be used for more procedures that previously.

We intend to eliminate waiting inside the practice and at reception. Accordingly, appointments will be staggered so that patients do not arrive or leave at the same time as other patients as far as we are able to manage.

In order to limit footfall in areas of the practice, we ask that you use the bathroom before attending your appointment. If you must use the bathrooms, at the practice please do your best to ensure you leave the facilities as you would expect to find them and wash your hands thoroughly. The bathrooms will be regularly disinfected between patients.



PRACTICE PROCEDURES

The practice team have spent time critically looking at every aspect of the practice with a view to moving all non-essential items that can potentially lead to spreading of the virus.

You will find that the practice may appear quite bare when you attend.

We regret that during this interim period, we will not be providing our normal beverage facilities in the interests of reducing all opportunities for cross-infection.

All clinical and common areas including door handles and surfaces will be regularly disinfected in addition to our normal surface cleaning protocols between patients.

There will be a period of downtime in each surgery following treatments to allow additional time for decontamination procedures and allow preparation time for the next patient so that they do not need to wait in the reception area.

All future appointments will be made and confirmed by email or telephone to limit your time spent at reception.

DENTAL PROCEDURES

all dental staff will be using personal protective equipment (PPE) in line with current recommendations and evidence.

We apologise in advance for the necessary reduction in social interaction that this will cause. Whilst the PPE will make us appear impersonal and distant, please be assured we are still the same friendly team underneath it all!

We are especially mindful that many dental treatments are 'aerosol -generating procedures' (AGPs). It is not possible to carry out some procedures without generation of some level of aerosol. Aerosol suspended in the air is a theoretical source of infection which we obviously wish to keep to a minimum. The current research suggests:

- Our use of normal high-volume suction reduces aerosol by over 90%
- The use of rubber dam where possible reduces bio-aerosols by a further 30-90%
- Our regular surgical facemasks filter approximately 60% of remaining airborne particles
- FFP2 and FFP3 masks filter 94-99% respectively of airborne particles in both directions (patient-clinician and clinician-patient).

We therefore feel that our normal dental procedures can be carried out with minimal risk by use of high-volume suction, rubber dam, surgical and FFP2 masks, and FFP3 masks where appropriate.

The increase in required PPE obviously has a financial cost associated. The Cottage Dental Practice will not be increasing its normal fees unless absolutely necessary.

SUMMARY



The vast majority of our patients are otherwise healthy without COVID-19 infection and we are confident that we are able to provide dental care for these patients in as normal an environment as possible while bearing in mind our responsibility to mitigate the risk of infection spread as far as practically possible.

This policy will be constantly reviewed and updated as necessitated by circumstances over time.

If you have any questions regarding this policy or about your dental care at the Cottage Dental Practice please do not hesitate to contact us on reception@ormskirkdentist.co.uk

Thank you,
Cottage Dental Practice
