

## Covid-19 Statement

Dear patients

We have been given authorisation to reopen the practice on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June**.

We would like to update you on what has been going on behind the scenes to ensure that we reopen as safely as possible. We are working very hard on policy and protocol which will, we believe, protect both patients and staff.

As covid 19 is still quite a new virus, there is still relatively little known about what the risks are specific to the dental setting.

Encouragingly, the current general consensus seems to be that the dental setting is generally not very high risk. After all, dental practices already adhere to the strictest rules on cross infection! It may be that in time, the science tells us the measures we are going to be taking are over the top. Our philosophy is that we would rather this be the case than the other way around. In time we may be able to peel away some of the measures planned. Or of course add to them if government or professional bodies advise this.

We hope our patients will be reassured we are taking Covid 19 very seriously.

### **To that end our policy and protocol for re-opening will include amongst other parts:**

1. A risk assessment for each patient prior to any appointment. This will include questions regarding recent symptoms or whether any contacts have symptoms.
2. We are working on ways to limit the number of patients in the waiting room at any one time in keeping with what government advice will be at the time of reopening. It likely upon entering, the patient will only be in the waiting room for a short period. Our aim is to quickly bring patients through to the dentist rooms.
3. It is likely each patient will have their forehead temperature taken at each visit.
4. We have barriers installed at reception much like check outs at supermarkets.
5. Around the practice, staff will wear masks.
6. Clinical staff (dentists and nurses) will be dressed in the correct PPE (Professional Protective Equipment) for procedures. Initially there maybe limitations on the procedures we can carry out and we await government advice on this.
7. A similar risk assessment and temperature check will take place for all staff at the start of every clinical session.
8. A mouthwash will be used prior to every treatment appointment.
9. Treatment will be carried out using high volume suction at all times.
10. Each surgery will be equipped with a Woodpecker Q7 High Pressure Plasma Air Purifier system which the developer has found 99.9% removal of fungi, bacteria and influenza viruses.

11. Surgery surfaces will be completely free of any clutter and carefully and systematically wiped between each patient with bacteria and virus killing solution.
12. We will continue to follow government advice along with the advice of respected dental bodies to ensure the safest environment possible for patients and staff.

We look forward to seeing all of our lovely patients soon.

Prior to re-opening we are still committed to looking after our patients at a distance completely free of charge via phone, email, social media and video consultations.

All our best wishes,

The Orthoplus Team.