COVID-19

Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (22-12-2020)

This will be my last update this year, and what a year it has been! I know I have said many times before in my communications but I truly cannot thank you all enough for your commitment, resilience and downright determination and tenacity over the last 9 months.

When you think back to the early days of setting up the UDCCs and creating safe pathways of care for all our patients, lab staff making visors and HDS, PDS and GDP volunteers. And then there was our Health Improvement team, who I think must now wear superhero caps; they have turned their hands to anything we threw at them.

It is incredible what we managed to achieve and are still achieving now with face fit testing, PPE deliveries, flu vaccinations, Covid vaccinations not to mention the small challenge of remobilising all our services..........

I don’t think any group of people could have rallied to the call the way all our staff and GDP colleagues did and for that I am immensely grateful and proud.

I know the recent announcements will have been a disappointment to all of us hoping to see family and friends over the festive period. Hopefully 2021 will bring light at the end of the tunnel and we can all get back to something resembling “normal”.

Merry Christmas to all of you, where possible enjoy some ‘down time’ and relax, I think we all deserve it. Stay safe and look after one another.

Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry

Stay Safe and Look After One Another
A couple of things to update on:

➤ **Glasgow Dental School’s Big Smile Big Band and Smileawi’s Christmas Wish**

Many of you will be aware of the Glasgow Dental Big Smile Big Band which is a band consisting of Glasgow Dental School Alumni, NHSGGC Dental Staff and Glasgow Dental Students. In an effort to bring some Christmas cheer they have joined forces with Dentists, Nigel and Vicky Milne’s Charity, Smileawi and will be streaming some virtually recorded Christmas Songs on **Tuesday 22nd December 2020** at 8pm. To find out more information please go to: [https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/bigsmilebigband](https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/bigsmilebigband)

And to register for the event [https://event.webinarjam.com/register/139/8vrrna26](https://event.webinarjam.com/register/139/8vrrna26)

➤ **Access to services over the Festive Period**

I thought it may be helpful if I detail the services over the festive period and how they can be accessed.

We will of course be relying on our GDP colleagues to continue to see and treat patients throughout the festive period, outwith the public holidays and not refer to the UDCC unless they have a covid positive patient that requires urgent care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Access to Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 December 2020</td>
<td>GDPs see and treat patients as normal. Covid + patients refer to UDCC by completing referral form (attached) and emailing to the Special Care Hub (details below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 - 28 December 2020</td>
<td>Access to emergency services for all patients including Covid + via NHS 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 – 31 December 2020</td>
<td>GDPs see and treat patients as normal. Covid + patients refer to UDCC by completing referral form (attached) and emailing to the Special Care Hub (details below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 – 4 January 2021</td>
<td>Access to emergency services for all patients including Covid + via NHS 24</td>
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PDS Special Care Hub – 0141 314 6669  **ggc.publicdентalspecialcare@nhs.scot**

➤ **Advice Lines for Secondary Care**

I also thought it would be helpful to reaffirm the advice line numbers for some of the secondary care departments. These are:

- Oral Medicine - 0141 211 9660
- Oral Surgery - 0141 211 9660
- Restorative Adult Trauma – 07870806319
- for other restorative dentistry enquiries 0141 211 9780
- Paediatrics - 0141 211 9671

Stay Safe and Look After One Another
Given recent issues with IT I thought it may be helpful if I bring to your attention some recent communications which have been sent out to you:

- **Covid Vaccination Programme**

  You will by now have received an email which explains the Boards is offering Covid vaccinations to staff in line with national priorities. This includes, within priority 3, for contractor services, you and any member of your staff in the following groups:
  - Over the age of 65
  - In clinically vulnerable groups (those who had been shielding)
  - From a black and minority ethnic group

  Can I remind you that only staff who fall within the list of priority 3 categories should be booked for a COVID vaccination at this stage. Misuse of this link for non-priority staff will be looked on unfavourably. Dental teams will be included in the next wave of vaccinations after Priority 3 is complete.

- **Assisting at Covid Vaccination Clinics**

  You have also have received information requesting expressions of interest from those of you in general practice willing to get involved in the Covid vaccination programme. The letter explains how you register and the training required to be undertaken.

- **Practice Premises Revaluation Exercise 2021 and Quality Improvement**

  Those in GDS should have been issued a letter from the Chief Dental Officer confirming that there will be no practice premises revaluation exercise in 2021 and that all dental contractors will be considered to be compliant in terms of the required number of audit hours within the current 2019 – 22 QI cycle.

*Stay Safe and Look After One Another*
Non CE marked PPE

Also in GDS you will have received a letter emailed to you from the Interim Director of Primary Care within the Scottish Government. The letter states:

"During the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic when PPE supply chains were at risk, the European Commission issued an easement to relevant rules with the effect that non-CE marked PPE could be purchased and used subject to their approval by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). A decision has now been taken to end this ‘easement’, with the following effects:

- after 31 December 2020, it will no longer be possible to purchase non-CE marked PPE and use it based on HSE approval.
- any non-CE marked PPE which has been approved by the HSE under the easement process and which is purchased on or before 31 December 2020 can still be used after this date, up until the stock expiry date set at the time of the HSE assessment. However, we recommend that in placing orders for the future you seek to acquire only CE marked PPE.

If there are any specific issues arising from this decision, such as imports already in train and scheduled to arrive after 31 December 2020, the Scottish Government’s PPE Division would like to know about this, and will, with NHS Boards, consider ways of addressing these issues.

You can contact the Scottish Government’s PPE Division at Emma.Nycz@gov.scot”

BLS

Below is a useful link from the GDC offering guidance with regard to basic life support training.


PPE Distribution

Given the remobilisation of our PDS and Health Improvement Services, moving forward to next year, in January, we will not be in a position to deliver enhanced PPE out to practices. All practices will be required to make arrangements to pick up FFP3 masks and gowns from the central store at Stobhill.

Instructions will be issued to all practices over the next few weeks.