

Prior to Aerosol Generating Procedures

for patient escorts who are in the same household or support bubble as the patient

Some instruments that dentists use for dental treatment create a mist spray. This is called an aerosol. The aerosol may contain Coronavirus (COVID-19) from the patient's saliva even if the patient has no symptoms of Coronavirus. Anyone in the room during the treatment could breathe in the aerosol and could develop Coronavirus.

Some people are more likely to be severely unwell if they get Coronavirus. If this is you, it may be better for someone else to accompany the patient to the dental appointment instead.

What types of treatment make an aerosol?

- Some types of fillings
- Some types of scaling (cleaning)

Your dentist or dental therapist will tell you if the treatment required might make an aerosol.

Ideally, only the patient and the dental staff should stay in the room during these types of treatment. However, if you do need to stay to support the patient, this is what you will be asked to:

DO:

- Review the following information to help you decide if you are more likely to be severely unwell if you get Coronavirus. If you are, it may be better for someone else to accompany the patient instead.
- Sit at least 2 metres away where possible during the treatment.
- Wear protective equipment which we will provide for you.

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DO NOT:

- Bring any more people with you than is absolutely necessary.
- Bring anything with you that you do not need for the appointment.

If you need to bring others with you eg a support worker, social worker or someone from outside your household or support bubble, please let us know before the appointment so that we can talk to you about this.

People who are at higher risk from COVID-19

The lists below may not include everyone who is at higher risk from Coronavirus and may change as we learn more about the virus. More information can be found at www.nhs.uk.

People at high risk (clinically extremely vulnerable)

You may be at high risk from Coronavirus if you:

- have had an organ transplant
- are having chemotherapy or antibody treatment for cancer, including immunotherapy
- are having an intense course of radiotherapy (radical radiotherapy) for lung cancer
- are having targeted cancer treatments that can affect the immune system (such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors)
- have blood or bone marrow cancer (such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma)
- have had a bone marrow or stem cell transplant in the past 6 months, or are still taking immunosuppressant medicine
- have been told by a doctor you have a severe lung condition (such as cystic fibrosis, severe asthma or severe COPD)
- have a condition that means you have a very high risk of getting infections (such as SCID or sickle cell)
- are taking medicine that makes you much more likely to get infections (such as high doses of steroids or immunosuppressant medicine)
- have a serious heart condition and are pregnant
- are an adult with Down's syndrome
- are an adult who is having dialysis or has severe (stage 5) long-term kidney disease
- have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, based on clinical judgement and an assessment of your needs

If you're at high risk from Coronavirus, you should have received a letter from the NHS.

People at moderate risk (clinically vulnerable)

People at moderate risk from Coronavirus include people who:

- are 70 or older
- have a lung condition that's not severe (such as asthma, COPD, emphysema or bronchitis)
- have heart disease (such as heart failure)
- have diabetes
- have chronic kidney disease
- have liver disease (such as hepatitis)
- have a condition affecting the brain or nerves (such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis or cerebral palsy)
- have a condition that means you have a high risk of getting infections
- are taking medicine that can affect the immune system (such as low doses of steroids)
- are very obese (a BMI of 40 or above)
- are pregnant – see www.nhs.uk for more information on pregnancy and coronavirus

Unlike people at high risk, you will not get a letter from the NHS.

Other things that can affect your risk

- over 60 - your risk increases as you get older
- being from a Black, Asian or minority ethnic background

Opening hours:

Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm

Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm

St Catherine's Health Centre Dental Clinic

0151 652 6527

Victoria Central Health Centre Dental Clinic

0151 604 7328

Out of Hours:

Out of Hours Service 111

Revive Dental Care

0161 476 9651

If you would like this information in another format or language, please contact the Your Experience Team on freephone 0800 694 5530. Alternatively you can email wcnt.yourexperience@nhs.net

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