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Angus Walls, Director

COVID-19 Update No 11

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Content of this update

- Phase 2arecovery

Dear Colleagues,

Phase 2a recovery

You will have received the SDCEP documentation that has been developed to support the resumption of dental services following the COVID19 lock down. These documents will form the basis for NHS Lothian to approve resumption of activity in your practice. Tom Ferris has told the Directors of Dentistry that he will be writing again to dentists this week with a clearer time scale for the start of Phase 2a in which you will take over the non-AGP urgent dental care for your patients.

Obviously we all want you to be able to return to supporting your patients at the earliest opportunity. I would ask that you read the SDCEP guidance carefully and work out how you are going to address the issues about social distancing, “clinical bubble” working and hygiene within your own practice. NHSL will require an assurance that you have appropriate plans in place to conform to this guidance, there is a “Practice Reopening Checklist” as part of the SDCEP guidance available from <http://www.sdcep.org.uk/published-guidance/covid-19-practice-recovery/>. I would ask you to work through this as part of your assurance process and you will be asked to return a completed version of the check list to PCCO for review by the DPAs and practice inspection team prior to re-commencing activity. Please do reach out to Mark and Jon at PCCO with any specific queries you have when working through this documentation.

Some practices in Edinburgh and the Lothians are relatively large in terms of patient numbers and may feel that the initial guidance for only having a single surgery operating and seeing around 10-12 patients per day will be insufficient to support the urgent care needs of your client group. If you feel that you fall into this category please also prepare a case to enable NHSL to approve your opening more than 1 surgery in your premises. This will need to include detail of how you will support social distancing for a larger client group and patient flow through the practice etc.

One key element to recommencing dental care will be the provision of PPE for the clinical and supporting dental team. Paul Cushley is working through NSS to provide a bulk supply of



PPE for Phase 2a which will be delivered to your practice. The DPAs and I will work carefully with you when we have more detail of this, to ensure that there will be somebody in your practice to receive the PPE when it is delivered, likely by the NHSL Childsmile vans and drivers. At this stage I don't know what the timescale for this will be but likely within the next 7 days. This supply will be based on 1 surgery working on a daily basis seeing between 10 and 12 patients per day, obviously where practices are given approval to have more surgeries working because of the size of the population they serve then a proportionate supply will be delivered.

I know that you are all anxious to return to clinical activity and this process will allow that in a phased manner over the next weeks. Obviously there will be a continued need for liaison with the UDCC to deliver any AGPs that your patients require to support the urgent care. The detail of how this will occur has yet to be finalized but it will be in place before you all "go live" in Phase 2a and I will write to you again about that process. The AGPs will only be those that are required to support the activity permitted in Phase 2a

With all my best

Angus Walls