OCDO
OFFICE OF CHIEF DENTAL OFFICER ENGLAND

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SENT ON BEHALF OF SARA HURLEY, CHIEF DENTAL OFFICER ENGLAND

The temporary cessation of routine dentistry addresses the safety of patients and of dental teams as well as supporting the public health measures required to slow community transmission of COVID-19. The profession's appreciation of the risks and compliance with the public health measures has contributed to setting the conditions for further easing of lockdown and we can reasonably anticipate the resumption of dental care in all settings, in England.

As we transition from the current COVID-19 peak and a continued reduction in risk of sustained community transmission of COVID-19 is maintained our plan for the longer term recovery can commence. The immediate focus is on increasing access for patients and supporting practices as they manage the on-going risks in delivering dental care, notably aerosol generating procedures.

In preparing for the activation of the broader public health conditions that both herald and safeguard our ability to resume routine dental care the attached "prompt to prepare" offers considerations applicable to primary dental care settings. There will be inevitable changes with regards to pace, proximity and levels of protection that are required for effective risk management and the safe delivery of dental care. This is the time to review and make the appropriate adjustments to protocols, procedures and practice infrastructure for the safe and effective resumption of routine dental care. Further guidance will follow, these will cover urgent dental care and alternative (non-AGP) evidence-based care planning.

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