COVID-19

Lee Savarro - Chief of Dentistry Update (4-12-2020)

As we get ever closer to Christmas I hope the news of the slightly relaxed restrictions will provide an ability for you to see some of your friends and family members over the festive period. The news that all members of the dental teams in all our services will be in the first tranche of Covid vaccinations is also some good news to add to some festive cheer.

A couple of things to update on:

- **NHS 24 Cover**

  We have now also received confirmation that NHS 24 will be covering all of the public holidays over the festive period.

- **PPE**

  We have now received some clarification from NSS about the ongoing supply of PPE to GDS colleagues. There is an upper limit to the PPE being allocated to each Board area and a percentage of this has been earmarked for dentistry. Going forward the maximum allocation for each practice will be based on a percentage of their pre-Covid activity. I want to reassure that all practices will receive at least the same amount as they have been over the last few months, with some practices receiving an increased supply. We have been advised that you will receive your next allocation over the next few weeks.

  For clarity, **simple** PPE is being distributed directly to practices by NSS via Menzies and the Board’s responsibility for delivery of PPE remains for **enhanced** PPE. As before any questions or queries regarding your supply of PPE can be directed by email to oral.health3@ggc.scot.nhs.uk. If you have complaint or issue in relation to **simple** PPE, we have been asked that you complete the attached form and if you send it to oral.health3@ggc.scot.nhs.uk we will ensure it is passed on appropriately.

  I am sure you will appreciate the supply and distribution of PPE is a logistical nightmare. The vast majority of PPE distributed within NHSGG&C has been without any problems; of the 278 practices we have only experienced issues with 12 and these were then quickly remedied. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Oral Health Improvement Teams who have taken on this role under very difficult circumstances.

  It is hoped that NHSGGC will move towards a more tailored ordering service for simple PPE with the user able to submit orders as required in January at some point after trials complete in some other Boards.

**Stay Safe and Look After One Another**
Face Fit Testing

We have now received a supply of new Alpha Solway masks. We will initially arrange to face fit those people who have been unable to fit to any other mask so far. We will be in contact with them directly very soon.

Thereafter we will again arrange face fitting sessions and more information on these will be circulated as soon as all arrangements are in place.

Staff COVID-19 testing

Just a reminder staff can be seen quickly for a COVID-19 test through the testing centre at West Glasgow ACH.

Both symptomatic health and social care staff (including care home staff, GPs, dental team members and community pharmacists) and symptomatic household contacts can now arrange to have a test using the e-referral form (link below). Anyone who is asymptomatic should not apply for a test.

Referral will be by appointment which are available seven days a week.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=veDvEDCgykuAnLXmdF5JmgW9YoY5w-BDIHK7ghonYUBURTjBTFE0UEFBNOI2ODU3S0lFNTJUjYzTiQIQCN0PWcu

Covid Vaccination Programme

You will be aware of the recent announcement by Jeanne Freeman about the Covid vaccination programme.

The programme is scheduled to start on Tuesday 8 December and will commence with front line health and care providers, those at highest risk and then on an age basis thereafter.

I am anticipating that dentists may not be required to assist as vaccinators with this initial part of the programme but anticipate we will be asked to support the wider programme when the second vaccine is released sometime in the New Year.

We are waiting on further information from Scottish Government and will share this with you as soon as it is available.

Stay Safe and Look After One Another
Advice Lines for Secondary Care

We have been asked 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

Staff Wellbeing

This has been a difficult time for many people and heading to Christmas can bring other stresses whether these be financial or loneliness and isolation for example. Below are details of some webinars which have been arranged. These are intended to support and empower all staff to enhance personal resilience during these challenging times.

- Enhancing Personal Resilience: Managing Stress and Staying Positive
  Thursday 10 December 2020 at 3 PM (1 hour duration)

  A webinar led by Dr Alastair Dobbin and Sheila Ross, a Psychotherapist, both from the Foundation For Positive Mental Health. The session will include a short presentation with practical tips, followed by a Q&A. You will be introduced to the Feeling Good app which is available to all Health and Social Care staff via the National Wellbeing Hub www.promis.scot

  Please register for this webinar at 3 PM via https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/health-and-social-care-support-scotland-with-the-feeling-good-app-tickets-130295315797

  This webinar will be repeated at 5 PM

  Please register for the webinar at 5 PM via https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/health-and-social-care-support-scotland-with-the-feeling-good-app-tickets-130297827309

- Coping with insomnia and sleep issues
  Wednesday 16 December at 5 PM (45 minutes duration)

  A webinar for Health and Social Services Staff led by Dr Dimitri Gavriloff, a Clinical Psychologist and Sleep Medicine Specialist at the Sleep and Circadian Neuroscience Institute, Oxford and Clinician at Oxford University Hospitals. This session will also introduce you to the Sleepio app which is accessible to health and social care staff via the National Wellbeing Hub www.promis.scot

  Please register for this webinar via https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/131459519963

Stay Safe and Look After One Another
• Loneliness and isolation  
  Thursday 17 December 2020, 7 PM

Martin Stepek is one of Scotland’s foremost teachers in Mindfulness, a published author in the field and ex Sunday Herald’s Columnist on Mindfulness. Please register for this event via https://tenforzen.clickmeeting.com/loneliness-and-isolation-free-event/register.

We are working hard now on our next logistical challenge to get staff vaccinated for Covid as well as to contribute positively and widely in the greater effort to get mass vaccination to the public to allow a return to normal living as quickly as possible.

In the meantime however please look after yourselves and those around you by sticking with the key messages in relation to prevention of spread of the Covid virus.

Kind regards,
Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry