



TUPSLEY

DENTAL PRACTICE

## **WE ARE NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS!!**

The practice re-opened for patients who required essential dental treatment on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

From 1<sup>st</sup> July we are fulfilling all routine appointments.

### **POST COVID-19 REOPENING POLICY**

*This policy has been created based on multiple updated sources from within the dental and medical professions and the government. It outlines modifications to our normal procedures that we initiated upon reopening.*

*It is not known at this time whether these procedures are temporary or whether they will become a permanent feature of the way dental practices must be run to ensure patient and staff safety in the future.*

*The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic is still being evaluated and studied, policies and recommendations are likely to change in line with new scientific evidence over time.*

*We would like to thank all our patients for their patience and forbearance during the period of temporary practice closure and for their understanding and cooperation whilst we implement new measures at the practice.*

*We will of course be providing dental care to all our patients in the safest possible environment. We greatly appreciate your assistance with any new or modified procedures at the practice.*

The Tupsley Dental Team prepared the Practice for reopening over lockdown and practised our updated procedures before patients returned to the practice.

### **PATIENT COMMUNICATION BEFORE APPOINTMENTS**

We will be contacting patients and confirming appointments ahead of their scheduled time.

We will request that all patients who are attending Tupsley Dental Practice complete an assessment prior to your appointment which will allow us to assess your level of risk for coronavirus infection before you attend the surgery. These forms will be emailed to you in electronic format 2 days prior to your appointment and you will be able to submit the information online.

# NEW MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF COVID-19 TRANSMISSION

Our normal cross-infection control protocols at Tupsley Dental Practice against all previously known pathogens are already woven into all clinical activity carried out at the practice.

It should be remembered that the dental practice is already a very clean environment compared to public areas and there is no evidence of COVID-19 transmission occurring in increased rates in dentists or their staff.

We have collectively evaluated all the updated guidance and observed what measures have been put in place in other countries. We feel that the measures which are outlined in this policy will reduce risk to the minimum level at the practice. Please be assured that all our clinical staff will also be complying with our updated procedures to reduce the risk of cross infection in both directions.

- We will email you with a Covid-19 pre-screening questionnaire before your appointment and, if necessary, a follow-up telephone conversation to assess relative coronavirus infection risk. Our staff will contact you to remind you of this if we have not received your completed forms. If you have any difficulties with completing the form, we can help you with this over the phone.
- If we feel that you are at risk of having possibly been infected, even if you are asymptomatic, we will respectfully request for you to delay booking any appointments with us for at least one month. If we do not receive the completed questionnaire in time and we are unable to contact you, we may need to cancel your appointment.
- We ask that attend the toilet before leaving for your appointment and that you leave any possessions behind at home.
- We will ask you to wear a face mask to your appointment. If this is not possible, we will provide you with a mask, ask you to sanitise your hands on arrival and to put on disposable gloves.
- We recommend that patients in the high-risk groups for developing complications from coronavirus delay non-essential dental treatment for as long as possible until the trend of the pandemic becomes clear. If you are in a high-risk group and do require treatment, we will only bring you into the Practice when the clinic is ready for you to go straight in. To find out whether you are in a high or very high-risk group please see the link here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk/>
- We will be reducing the use of unnecessary contact of card machines and can offer contactless payment systems going forwards for some treatments. We will request that payment is made online or over the phone for your appointment prior to you attending in those cases. If attending a routine appointment, you can pay in advance over the phone or if necessary, you are able to pay using a debit or credit card at the Practice.
- When arriving at the Practice we will ask you to wait outside or in your car and to complete your arrival online and text us on 07955 096876 to alert reception of your arrival. We will meet all patients outside the building. The waiting room will be available to a maximum of 3 people. One adult is able to attend with a child; please do not bring additional family members with you unless they are happy to wait in the car or outside the building.

## **ARRIVING AT THE PRACTICE**

On notifying us of your arrival, you will be collected from the carpark as soon as we can see you safely through reception. We will ask you to sanitise and place on PPE. We will also ask you to sign a consent for treatment form.

In surgery, we may ask you to use a Hydrogen Peroxide mouthwash before some dental treatments are provided.

Rubber dam or other barrier mechanisms will be used for more procedures than previously.

We intend to eliminate waiting inside the practice and at reception. Accordingly, appointments will be staggered so that patients do not arrive or leave at the same time as other patients as far as we are able to manage.

## **PRACTICE PROCEDURES**

The Tupsley Dental Practice team have spent time critically looking at every aspect of the practice with a view to removing all non-essential items that can potentially be the cause of infection.

You will find that the practice may appear to be quite bare when you attend.

We regret that during this interim period, we will not be offering tea and coffee or magazines and leaflets in the interests of reducing all opportunities for cross infection to a minimum.

All clinical and common areas including door handles and surfaces will be regularly disinfected in addition to our normal surface cleaning protocols between patients.

All future appointments will be made either at your appointment in surgery or by the receptionist and confirmed by email or telephone to limit your time spent at reception.

## **DENTAL PROCEDURES**

Our use of our normal high-volume suction reduces aerosol production by over 90%.  
The use of dental rubber dam where possible reduces bio aerosols by a further 30 to 90%.

Our regular surgical facemasks filter approximately 60% of remaining airborne particles.  
FFP2 and FFP3 masks filter 94% and 99% respectively of airborne particles in both directions (patient to clinician and clinician to patient).

We are especially mindful that many dental treatments are aerosol-generating procedures (AGP's).

It is difficult for us to carry out some dental procedures without generation of some level of aerosol. Aerosol suspended in the air is a theoretical source of infection which we obviously wish to keep to a minimum.

We therefore feel that our normal dental procedures can be carried out with minimal risk using high-volume suction, rubber dam, surgical and FFP2 masks.

In aerosol generating procedures FFP3 masks and gowns will also be worn and we will leave time between re-entering and cleaning the room as appropriate.

Despite the financial impact of the coronavirus, Tupsley Dental Practice will not be increasing its normal fees. However, the time taken to carry out treatment sessions may need to be extended which will be included into the fees for your procedure.

All dental staff will be using personal protective equipment in line with current recommendations and evidence.

We apologise in advance for the necessary reduction in social interaction that this will necessitate. Whilst our masks may make us appear impersonal and distant, please be assured we are still the same friendly team underneath it all!

*With Kind Regards,  
Tupsley Dental Practice Team*

The vast majority of our patients are healthy and without coronavirus infection. We are confident that we are able to provide dental care for these patients in as normal an environment as possible while bearing in mind our responsibilities to mitigate risks of infection spread as far as is practically possible.

This policy will be constantly reviewed and updated as necessitated by circumstances over time.

If you have any questions regarding this policy or about your dental care at Tupsley Dental Practice, please do not hesitate to contact us on:

[info@tupsleydentalpractice.co.uk](mailto:info@tupsleydentalpractice.co.uk)