

**Management of COVID-19 cases in Yorkshire & Humber dental practices
(including private and independent practices)
Developed by the Yorkshire and Humber Dental Public Health Team using national guidance**

Dental practices should always maintain social distancing, including in non-clinical areas, such as reception or staff rooms and practise frequent hand washing. This will mitigate against the risks of transmission both between staff/patients and staff/staff and the need to self-isolate under the NHS Test and Trace requirements if someone in the practice subsequently tests positive for COVID-19.

Symptoms:

The **main symptoms** of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell (anosmia) or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

If you have **any** of the **main symptoms** of coronavirus:

- **Stay at home (self-isolate)** – do not leave your home or have visitors only leave your home to have a test. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.
- **Get a test** – get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, should also get a test if they have symptoms.

Case definitions

- Confirmed case: laboratory positive case of COVID-19 with or without symptoms.
- Possible (suspected) case: new continuous cough and/or high temperature and/or a loss or change to your sense of smell (anosmia) or taste.

Contact definitions:

A contact is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 with a [polymerase chain reaction \(PCR\) test](#). You can be a contact anytime from 2 days before the person who tested positive developed their symptoms, and up to 10 days after, as this is when they can pass the infection on to others.

A contact can be:

- anyone who lives in the **same household** as someone with COVID-19 symptoms or who has tested positive for COVID-19
- anyone who has had **any of the following types of contact** with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 with a PCR test:
 - **face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre**
 - **been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact**

- **sexual contacts**
- **been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)**
- **travelled in the same vehicle or a plane**

An interaction through a Perspex (or equivalent) screen with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 is not usually considered to be a contact, as long as there has been no other contact such as those in the list above.

ALL OF THE ABOVE WOULD STILL APPLY IF THE INDIVIDUAL WAS WEARING A FLUID RESISTANT (TYPE IIR) SURGICAL MASK ONLY

Infectious Period:

The infectious period is from 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or 2 days before PCR test if no symptoms) until at least 10 days after. Symptomatic staff who test positive for COVID-19 or who have an inconclusive test result, and symptomatic staff who have not had a test, can [return to work](#) no earlier than 10 days from symptom onset, provided clinical improvement has occurred and they have been afebrile (not feverish) without medication for 48 hours and they are medically fit to return.

Staff who test positive for COVID-19 and who were asymptomatic at the time of the test must self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. If they remain well, they can [return to work](#) on day 11. In all cases the day after symptom onset or test date is counted as the first full day of self-isolation. If they develop symptoms after the test, they should restart their 10-day isolation period from the day the symptoms start.

Outbreak definition:

There have been 2 or more confirmed cases (or clinically suspected cases of COVID-19) associated with the setting within 14 days.

Notification of COVID-19 positive cases:

- Symptomatic people who test positive or have an inconclusive result and symptomatic staff who haven't had a test should isolate for a minimum of 10 days from start of symptoms. The day after symptom onset is counted as the first full day of self-isolation. Those who have tested positive will be contacted by a member of the Test & Trace team to undertake contact tracing. Asymptomatic people who test positive must self-isolate for 10 days. The day after the test date is counted as the first full day of self-isolation. If, during this time, they develop symptoms, they must self-isolate for at least 10 days from the day of symptom onset. In all cases the day after symptom onset or test date is counted as the first full day of self-isolation
- Staff should inform their Practice Principal/dental practice manager if they are symptomatic, have gone for a test, and of a positive result as soon as they receive it so that relevant actions can be completed immediately.
- **Please ensure that any member of staff with a positive lateral flow test result self-isolates immediately and has a PCR test within 48 hours to confirm the results.**
- Within 24 hours of notification of a positive PCR test by a member of staff/patient, the dental practice should notify the Consultants in Dental Public Health via email, to **BOTH** Siobhan.Grant@phe.gov.uk and Sandra.Whiston@phe.gov.uk.

- Please complete and attach **Forms 1 and 2 Management of COVID-19 in dental practice Yorkshire and Humber**, for each case at the practice. The latest version of the forms is available at <https://www.yorksandhumberdeanery.nhs.uk/dentistry/covid-19-dental-education-resources>
- Please complete the form electronically and email it as a Word document.
- Please include the dental practice name, a mobile number and email address for contact and back up landline telephone and e-mail address.

One of the dental public health team will subsequently contact you to provide advice. If urgent support at weekends or out of hours is required call telephone number 0114 3049843.

- If an NHS dental contract is held and patient care has been or has the potential to be affected please inform the dental commissioning team at NHSEI including details of alternative arrangements made via email england.yhdentalreturns@nhs.net. NHSEI does not require details of COVID-19 positive staff.

Potential scenarios

Staff member (the **case**) develops one or more of the **main** symptoms of COVID-19. They should report this to the practice manager/practice principal

Staff member (the **case**) should be advised to:

- 1) **Self-isolate** for at least 10 days (need to be clinically improved and fever free without medication for 48 hours before self-isolation ends)
- 2) **Go for a test** for COVID-19 as soon as possible
- 3) Inform the practice manager/practice principal as soon as possible of the results

The practice manager/practice principal should:

- 1) Identify **potential** contacts (an individual would be classed as a contact only when the case individual has received a positive test result for COVID-19, however, useful to anticipate who might be a **potential** contact in the event the test result from the case individual returns positive).

Potential contacts do not need to self-isolate at this stage but they should take extra care to follow social distancing advice, including washing their hands often. If they get any coronavirus symptoms, they must self-isolate and get a coronavirus test as soon as possible.

- 2) **Complete forms 1 and 2** available: <https://www.yorksandhumberdeanery.nhs.uk/dentistry/covid-19-dental-education-resources>
- 3) Instigate **deep clean** of the practice in line with latest version of OCDO SOP and IPC guidance (links below)

Dental practice could remain open if sufficient staff to sustain a safe service.

Staff member (the **case**) contacts practice principal/practice manager to report a **POSITIVE COVID-19** test result

The **case** (who tested positive) should **self-isolate** for at least 10 days (needs to be clinically improved and fever free without medication for 48 hours before self-isolation ends). If they develop symptoms after the test, they should restart their 10-day isolation period from the day the symptoms start.

The practice manager/practice principal should:

- 1) Identify **contacts** and **complete forms 1 and 2** available: <https://www.yorksandhumberdeanery.nhs.uk/dentistry/covid-19-dental-education-resources>

- 2) Instigate **deep clean** of the practice in line with latest version of OCDO SOP and IPC guidance (links below)

The case and identified contacts will be unable to work within the practice until self isolation ends.

Dental practice could remain open if sufficient staff to sustain a safe service.

Contact Consultant in Dental Public Health within 24 hours (details on forms 1 and 2) <https://www.yorksandhumberdeanery.nhs.uk/dentistry/covid-19-dental-education-resources> . If urgent support is required at weekends or out of hours call telephone number 0114 3049843. **Advice will be provided in hours by the dental public health team.**

Anyone classified as a contact (through work, social contact or household contact) will be advised to self-isolate for 10 full days. Day one of isolation is the first full day after contact. Isolation ends after the 10th full day. Contacts do not need a test unless symptomatic.

Contacts will need to complete their self-isolation for 10 days irrespective of a negative test result.

Contacts of contacts (e.g. household members) do not need to self-isolate unless anyone becomes symptomatic.

The Consultant will contact the dental practice to undertake a risk assessment of possible exposures within the dental practice. The correct use of appropriate PPE **and appropriate social distancing** as described by the contact definitions on page 1 would exclude someone from being a contact as the risk of transmission would be assumed to be negligible.

All members of the dental team and patients should aim to maintain 2m physical distancing unless wearing level 2 (non AGP) PPE or higher.

Appropriate clinical PPE needs to be worn as described in risk assessments in IPC guidance and Dental Standard operating procedure: transition to recovery (links below).

In non-clinical settings the use of a fluid resistant (**type IIR**) **surgical mask alone is insufficient to preclude an individual as a contact unless there has also been adequate physical distancing and hand hygiene.** Examples could include reception, changing rooms and lunch settings, in vehicles, staff meetings or social events between staff.

Staff members that have downloaded the NHS Test and Trace app should pause/switch off Bluetooth whilst working in the dental practice to avoid being identified as a false contact.

References:

- **Main symptoms of coronavirus:** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>
- **Symptomatic worker: flowchart describing return to work following a SARS-CoV-2 test:** https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/905673/Flowchart_for_return_to_work_symptomatic_30_july.pdf
- **Asymptomatic worker: flowchart describing return to work following a SARS-CoV-2 test:** https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/905674/Flowchart_for_return_to_work_asymptomatic_30_July.pdf
- **COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients or residents in health and social care settings:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings>
- **Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19 infection) who do not live with the person:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>
- **Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>
- **COVID 19: Infection prevention and control website** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control>
- **Dental Standard operating procedure: transition to recovery (section 15 on decontamination)** <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/dental-standard-operating-procedure-transition-to-recovery/>
- **Working safely during coronavirus** <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>
- **COVID-19: infection prevention and control dental appendix** https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928034/COVID-19_Infection_prevention_and_control_guidance_Dental_appendix.pdf