



The Bruton Dental Practice

Dear patient and friends of the practice

I wanted to keep you informed of the steps that we have taken at the practice following the recent outbreak of COVID - 19 (Coronavirus). This is a constantly evolving scene with the situation changing day by day or even hour by hour.

Ever since I have been at the practice our core value has been to take care of our patients and our team. The safety and wellbeing of both our patients and team is our first priority. Right from the beginning of this outbreak we took steps to make sure we were well informed and as up to date as we possibly can be. I have provided the team with regular updates in our huddles and meetings and we have sent out information in our weekly updates as well as separate emails when we have received new guidance.

We remain closely linked in to the General Dental Council, Care Quality Commission, NHS England NHS Improvement, the British Dental association and the Office of the Chief Dental Officer. Guidance and information released are immediately read and relayed to our team.

We implemented the first standard operating procedure issued on the 5th March as well as the preparedness letter for General Dental practice from the Deputy Chief Dental Officer within hours of their release.

We do understand that out in the community there is a sense of increasing anxiety for what is the "biggest public health emergency in a generation" I can assure you that we will follow closely the advice from Public health England, the Chief Medical Officer Professor Chris Whitty as well as The Chief Scientific Advisor Sir Patrick Vallance issued from the government. It is now time for us to do our bit and we will as a practice do what is necessary whilst being sensitive to your own feelings.

Infection control and surgery cleanliness is second nature to us so potentially we could continue with treating patients but it is still likely that we will be asked to change our practice as part of a wider social distancing policy.

These are possible scenarios of what may happen and there may be more

1. We may be asked to carry on business as usual
2. We may be asked to limit aerosol generating procedures
3. We may be asked to stop elective treatments
4. We may be asked to only treat urgent care
5. We may be asked to close the practice

As we stand I am not certain what the next steps will be but I am informed that renewed guidance from the organisations I have mentioned above are expected imminently. It is now looking likely that we may have to adjust how we work in the coming weeks and months. I can assure you that we will be sensitive to your needs and our team is ready to hear of any concerns that you may have and if possible, change our working arrangements in the coming weeks to meet any anxieties.

We will continue to keep our Facebook page updated and if appropriate we are also looking at ways to use any spare capacity that may appear in our team to help the wider health and social care sector as well as you in our community so if you have any ideas where we may be able to help deliver supplies to someone self-isolating within our community please do let us know and we will see what we can do.

With our very best wishes

From all the Bruton Dental Practice Team

Andrew Keeling BDS and Associates
Uphills, BRUTON, Somerset BA10 0ES
www.brutondental.co.uk

Telephone: 01749 812461 E-mail: reception@brutondental.co.uk
The Bruton Dental Practice Ltd, Registered in Cardiff No.06842122
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