

**SOP**

**Update 24.11.2021**

Respiratory guidance has been published by PHE and the following is now the recommended pathway for patients, and there for the team, going forwards. Local risk assessment is also required to fulfil the requirement of the health and safety at work act 1974 which can be read after the appendices. The guidance can be read in full here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/covid-19-infection-prevention-and-control-dental-appendix>

What has changed?

The low, medium and high risk pathways have been removed. Patients will now fall into one of two pre-screening pathways – **non respiratory** or **respiratory** thus:

Patients who are fit and well/ “non-respiratory pathway” are to be seen as per the pre Covid protocols

**Face coverings to be worn in the practice during the winter 21/22 season**

**No FFP or fallow time required for fit and well patients**

Any patients reporting respiratory symptoms/”respiratory pathway” are preferably to be deferred or, if urgent, to be seen as per Covid IPC protocols i.e. FFP and fallow commensurate with ACH.

**Pre-screening patients**

This will continue as per the previous guidance to ensure that any patients attending are experiencing no respiratory illness when they attend. An example of pre-screening questions can be found at Appendix 1 – ideally this will be done a day prior to the appointment via phone, email or text for example and also when the patient arrives.

If patients report they are fit and well then ALL pre Covid protocols are followed:

Face covering in the building,

No FFP

No fallow

Aprons/gowns can be worn if splash is expected

Normal pre Covid cleaning

*If patients report that they are* ***not*** *well with respiratory symptoms, then:*

*Ideally treatment should be deferred*

*If the patient requires* ***urgent*** *treatment:*

*Then the respiratory pathway should be followed thus:*

*FRSM/surgical mask in the building*

*FFP3*

*Fallow commensurate with ACH*

*Gowns/aprons to cover uniform.*

How to choose the respiratory pathway algorithm is at Appendix 2

Lighthouse Dental Practice will carry out individual Risk assessments during these times.

**PPE and RPE (Respiratory Protective Equipment)**

A surgical mask or FRSM is worn as per usual for all procedures and changed after each patient.

RPE of FFP can be worn if the team decides they wish to or if local risk assessment shows that this is required.

**Testing**

**Asymptomatic staff must self-test twice per week as per England’s guidance** on asymptomatic testing. **Results must be reported on the NHS portal**. Test kits can be ordered here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

**Patients do not require testing prior to their appointment**

Table

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Appendix 2

Choosing the respiratory pathways

Diagram

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