

Dear Patient,

We hope this letter finds you and your family in good health.

You may have heard that dental practices can open to routine care from Monday 8 June.

Our practice will be opening on that day but we just wanted to be clear that this may not be business as usual. The treatments you are offered may be different to those you received before, depending on staff and equipment available. It will take some time before services return to what you previously experienced as normal. Please be patient.

Our community has been through a lot over the last few months, and all of us are looking forward to resuming our normal habits and routines. While many things have changed, one thing has remained the same: our commitment to your safety.

Infection control has always been a top priority for our practice and you may have seen this during your visits to our surgery. Our infection control processes are made so that when you receive care, it's both safe and comfortable. We want to tell you about the infection control procedures we follow in our practice to keep patients and staff safe.

Our practice follows the infection control guidelines made by the dental governing bodies. We are up-to-date on new guidance that has been issued. We do this to make sure that our infection control procedures are current and adhere to recommendations.

You may see some changes when it is time for your next appointment. We made these changes to help protect our patients and staff. For example:

- Staff will be wearing higher levels of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This is to protect you, other patients as well as staff so please do not be alarmed
- Perspex screens at reception
- Air filtration units will be running in surgeries and waiting areas to provide an added level of protection from airborne pathogens
- Our practice will communicate with you beforehand to ask some screening questions. You'll be asked those same questions again at your appointment
- Some consultations may take place by telephone or by the use of video consultation services
- We have hand sanitiser that we will ask you to use when you enter the practice. You will also find some in the reception area and other places in the practice for you to use as needed.
- We no longer offer magazines, children's toys and so forth, since those items are difficult to clean and disinfect
- Appointments will be managed to allow for social distancing between patients and to allow time for the cleaning and disinfection of the surgeries between patients. That might mean that you're offered fewer options for scheduling your appointment.
- Toilet facilities will not be available

We will do our best to allow greater time between patients to reduce waiting times for you, as well as to reduce the number of patients in the reception area at any one time.

How you can help:

- With the exception of children and patients with carers, patients should come alone
- A distance of at least 2 metres must be observed if another patient is present in the dental practice
- Any payment will be taken in advance and should be made by debit/credit card
- Staff will not shake your hand
- If you show symptoms following appointment booking, you should contact the practice by phone
- Please do not arrive early to the practice. If necessary, you should wait outside the practice the front door will be locked
- Please do not arrive without an appointment
- Patients should come wearing a mask if possible or be prepared to wear one.

Please look for further updates on our Facebook page

Yours sincerely,

The Park Avenue Dental Practice Team