GDS Preparedness Survey

The provision of face-to-face treatment within general dental practice has been restricted during the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance attached to this email is intended to assist practices in their preparations for the phased return to practice as outlined in the letter issued by the Acting Chief Dental Officer on 2 June 2020. The guidance focuses on the implementation of social distancing within dental practices, preparation of staff, and the implementation of enhanced cross-infection control procedures. Further guidance will be issued in due course.

The survey attached to this guidance will help assess the preparedness of the General Dental Services to facilitate social distancing and enhanced cross-infection control procedures and to estimate the volume of patient care that may be provided under various scenarios.

I would therefore ask that you review the guidance prior to completing the survey (please note that only one return per practice is required). The information from the survey will be key in planning for the future provision of the General Dental Services and in meeting the oral health needs of the population.

A hard copy of the survey is attached to assist you in the collation of the information prior to submission online via https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7DH9KY7 and should be submitted by Thursday 11 June 2020. I would thank you in advance for your time in reviewing and implementing the guidance and for completing this survey.

Q1 What is your practice number? (Select from drop down menu)

Q2 What best describes your type of practice? (Select from drop down menu)
   - General Practice
   - Specialist Orthodontic Practice
   - Specialist Oral Surgery Practice

Q3 Section 2 provides guidance in relation to practice preparation. Do you agree that sufficient guidance has been provided to assist you prepare your practice (Please select one)
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree
Q4 Section 3 provides guidance in relation to staff preparation. Do you agree that sufficient guidance has been provided to assist you prepare your staff? (Please select one)
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree

Q5 Section 4 provides guidance in relation to the patient pathway. Do you agree that sufficient guidance has been provided to assist your practice in implementing this patient pathway? (Please select one)
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree

Q6 Section 5 provides guidance in relation to enhanced cross-infection control procedures. Assuming sufficient PPE is available, do you agree that sufficient guidance has been provided to implement enhanced cross-infection control procedures? (Please select one)
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree

Q7 How confident are you that your practice can source the necessary PPE?
   1. Extremely confident
   2. Slightly confident
   3. Neutral
   4. Slightly unconfident
   5. Extremely unconfident

Q8 Approximately how much time will be required to prepare your practice to meet the requirements set out in the guidance? (Please enter number of days. If your practice is already prepared please enter 0)

Q9 Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and taking private commitment into consideration, how many sessions per week (with 1 full time equivalent equalling 10 sessions) at a practice level were committed to providing health service dentistry? (Please enter whole number)
Q10 Approximately how many health service appointments were booked each week in your practice prior to the COVID-19 pandemic? (Please enter whole number)

Q11 Taking the guidance into consideration, if all staff members were available, how many sessions per week at a practice level could be committed to providing health service dentistry as the GDS are re-established? (Please enter whole number)

Q12 Taking the guidance, the redeployment of staff (e.g. to UDCs, care homes etc), and other staff issues (e.g. vulnerable or shielding staff members) into consideration, how many sessions per week at a practice level could be committed to providing health service dentistry as the GDS are re-established? (Please enter whole number)

For Q13 to Q17 please base you answer on the number of sessions provided in Q11.

Q13 Taking into consideration the guidance issued in relation to social distancing and enhanced cross-infection control procedures (particularly surgery decontamination), approximately how many health service appointments could be provided each week in your practice if only non-AGPs were provided? (Please enter whole number)

Q14 Approximately how many of these appointments would be required if appointments were restricted to urgent care needs? (Please enter whole number)

Q15 Current guidance states that 60 minutes air settling time is required prior to decontaminating a surgery following an AGP. Taking this, social distancing, and enhanced cross-infection control procedures into consideration, approximately how many health service appointments could be provided each week in your practice if only AGPs were provided? (Please enter whole number)

Q16 What if the air settling time was reduced to 30 minutes? (Please enter whole number)

Q17 What if the air settling time was reduced to 15 minutes? (Please enter whole number)

Q18 How many dentists in your practice have been fit tested successfully for an FFP3 mask or have testing booked? (Please enter whole number)

Q19 How many dentists may require fit testing? (Please enter whole number)
Q20 How many dental nurses have been fit tested successfully for an FFP3 mask or have testing booked? (Please enter whole number)

Q21 How many dental nurses may require fit testing? (Please enter whole number)