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## Why is my routine dental care being rebooked?

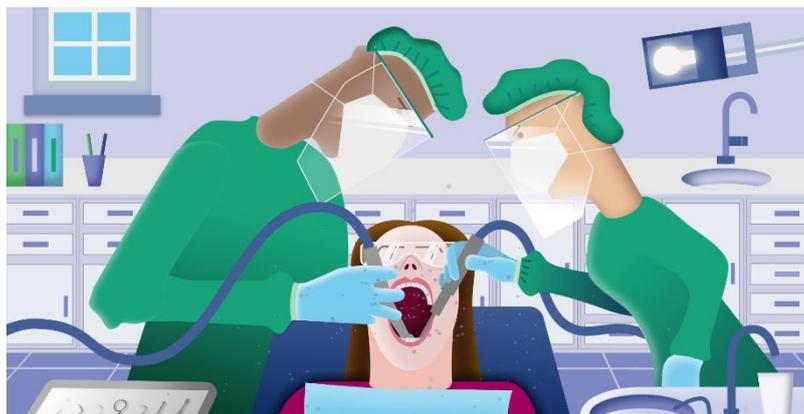
**You may be wondering why you cannot go to the Dentist for your regular care at the moment.**

The global COVID-19 pandemic has had a direct effect on how your dental team is able to provide care for you and your family. Patient safety has always been at the forefront of medical and dental care and it is of prime importance during the current Coronavirus crisis.

Dental check-ups and treatments involve close contact between the dentist and the patient. **The dental team do not want to pass the virus on to you.**

**Official guidance states that routine dental treatment has had to be temporarily postponed.**

**Care is still available for emergency and urgent dental problems.**



**Drills, tooth polishers and scalers for cleaning patient's teeth all create a lot of water spray which can mix with saliva from a patient's mouth. This in turn creates an aerosol which could contain the Coronavirus if the patient were infected.**

COVID-19 has a seven-day period before symptoms show. During this time someone wouldn't know they had the infection and could pass it on to others. **If an unsuspecting patient had a filling for example, the spray from doing that procedure could possibly infect the dentist and the nurse.** It could also put other patients at risk of COVID-19.

At the moment, to be able to provide dental care safely dentists need to use personal protective equipment (PPE) beyond that which you would normally see at the dentist.

**The 'enhanced' PPE that dentists need to use when using high-speed tools is currently required by hospitals treating patients suffering with COVID-19 and to protect residents and workers at care homes across the country.** Without this PPE dentists, hygienists, dental therapists and nurses are not currently allowed to treat patients as normal.

**To help stop the spread of coronavirus, dentists have been advised all non-urgent dental treatment must be postponed.**

This includes:

- Dental check-ups.
- Preventive treatments such as scale and polish and fluoride varnishes.
- Examinations and x-rays.
- Appointments for braces.
- Cosmetic dental treatment of any kind e.g. tooth whitening.
- Routine denture treatment.
- Treatments on teeth that are not painful e.g. fillings and extractions.

One of the Red House team will contact you to rebook these appointments.

If you do not hear from us, we recommend that you contact reception on 01653 693809 to cancel your appointment and rearrange it for a later date.

**Non-necessary dental treatment is not a reason for you to leave the home.**

***If you are in pain, have bleeding, or swelling, or have had an accident and need urgent dental care, please contact us. Even though normal face-to-face meetings have had to be temporarily suspended, Nitin, Richard or Lucy will contact you and be able to decide how best to care for you.***

**STAY HOME ► PROTECT THE NHS ► SAVE LIVES**