



Staying Covid-19 Safe

'Extra Precautions = Extra Care'

Helping you maintain your dental health during difficult times

At Foundation Dental Services we have always “gone the extra mile” with infection control :

- ◇ Accredited Facilities – demanding up to date “state of the art” Infection Control Protocols.
- ◇ Purpose built and designed treatment clinics to ensure a hygiene friendly environment.
- ◇ High temperature steam sterilisation and tracking of all instruments.
- ◇ Regular “infection control” update training for all FDS staff.
- ◇ Personal protection equipment (PPE) used for all clinical procedures.
- ◇ Practical testing of all staff on ‘hand hygiene’ skills and cough etiquette.
- ◇ Maintaining up to date medical histories for all visiting patients – to pre-emptively identify any health ‘risks’.
- ◇ A very thorough and complete environmental wipe down with anti-bacterials and anti-virals between patients.
- ◇ The use of a pre-procedural mouthwash to reduce 90% of the microbial load in a patient’s mouth, followed by the use of high volume evacuation (i.e. suction) during treatment to eliminate a further 90% of microbial load. In combination – these two steps reduce the microbial load risk in clinic to less than 1%.

How to prevent the spread of COVID-19



Wash hands often for 20 seconds and encourage others to do the same.



Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, if no soap or water is available.



Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, knobs and other places touched often.



Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

With the advent of the Covid-19 epidemic - FDS has introduced a number of “extra” transmission protection steps :

- ◇ Before attending the FDS clinic every patient is asked about their possible Covid-19 exposure history – with any ‘*medium to high*’ risk patients asked to defer treatment until they return to a ‘*low*’ risk status.
- ◇ Upon arrival at the FDS clinic - all patients are required to use hand sanitiser and practice social distancing. Seating has been spaced to allow this - and patients are encouraged to wait in their cars or on outside chairs to comply with the direction to limit the number of people within any enclosed space.
- ◇ As per recommendations, all magazines, books and water points have been removed from the waiting room to minimise surfaces that may carry a viral load. Administration staff at FDS carry out regular environmental wipe down of all ‘high touch’ surfaces. Masks can be provided upon request while you are waiting.
- ◇ Use of the clinic rest rooms is limited to emergencies and they are cleaned after every visit.
- ◇ The Covid-19 tracing APP is used in all FDS clinics to aid in the identification of any people passing through the clinic that are later diagnosed with Covid-19 from other sources. This will allow us to quickly alert any other ‘at risk’ FDS patients.
- ◇ FDS has a strict “stay home” policy for any staff displaying the slightest symptoms of respiratory infection or that have someone at home displaying symptoms.
- ◇ Appointments at FDS have been lengthened to reduce the number of patients passing through the clinic (to aid with social distancing) and to allow extra environmental “wipe down” time between patient visits.
- ◇ It is a policy at FDS that any patients considered at ‘greater risk’ of medical complications from the Covid-19 infection (i.e. the aged or medically compromised) should be seen as early as possible in the day. Of course, *ANY* patient that feels they may be at an increased risk can request an early appointment.
- ◇ FDS is in the process of installing a ‘negative pressure feature’ to a number of clinics to allow a complete change over of surgery air between patients. This is seen as an important step moving forward if Covid-19 again starts to circulate more generally in the community. Reception desk shields are also being installed.

As you can see – FDS is very focussed on maintaining a safe environment for both our patients and staff during these very difficult times. If you have any questions or concerns not addressed by the above – then please do not hesitate to discuss them with our administration staff over the phone – or with our clinicians in clinic.

**Dr John Carrigy – Registered Dental Specialist
Principal Clinician**

