

Dental Public Statement

January 2022

NHS Dental appointments are currently limited. Dental practices across North Wales continue to follow social distancing and COVID infection control measures as put in place by Welsh Government. These measures are for the safety of patients, staff and the wider community but inevitably reduce the throughput of patients in a dental practice.

Our focus is on patients with an urgent or emergency need. Dentists are required to prioritise access to treatment on the basis of clinical need and to provide treatment to urgent and high priority patients.

When check-up appointments become available, your dentist will contact you. Patient access to NHS dental services and non-urgent treatment will continue to be limited while current cross infection and social distancing protocols remain in place, although practices with sufficient capacity may be able to start recalling patients that are overdue for their NHS dental examination.

Please be patient. We hope the public will be understanding of the current situation and appreciate the concern and frustration that dentists are experiencing at not being able to offer a comprehensive service to their patients.

If you require urgent dental care during normal office hours, you should contact your usual dentist. Outside of normal office hours, or if you don't have a dentist, please [contact NHS 111 Wales](#).

Main tips to help keep children's teeth healthy

- ❖ Give only healthy low-sugar snacks and plain milk or water to drink between meals.
- ❖ Use a Fluoride toothpaste to help keep teeth strong. For children 0-3 years use a smear of toothpaste containing 1000 ppm fluoride. For children over 3 years old use a pea sized amount of toothpaste containing 1450 ppm fluoride.
- ❖ Don't rinse with water after brushing, just ask your child to spit out the excess toothpaste.
- ❖ Brush your child's teeth last thing before bed and one other time during the day.
- ❖ Children need help and supervision to brush until they are at least seven years old.

For more tips and advice about keeping children's teeth and gums healthy visit
www.designedtosmile.org

It is important for the public to keep up a good dental hygiene routine to reduce the possibility of tooth decay and gum disease.

Be aware that sugar is the main cause of tooth decay.

