

## 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY EASING OF RESTRICTIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

From 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 you will be aware that the government is lifting all remaining restrictions in England, including mandatory mask-wearing and social distancing requirements. It however also advises that 'just because you don't have to wear masks and socially distance; it doesn't mean you shouldn't continue to do so.' Some may well find this somewhat confusing.

For the avoidance of doubt I can confirm that at Holly Tree House Dental Practice we will continue to be cautious and maintain protocols that aim to keep our patients and the team as safe as possible. This has been our aim throughout the pandemic and remains our priority as infection rates currently show every sign of increasing.

We will continue to treat all patients as if they are infected and apply appropriately strict protocols for the protection of patients, clinicians, and team members. Accordingly, all clinicians and team members will continue to wear an appropriate mask at all times in the practice, as described in official guidance. Patients will continue to be screened for symptoms and be risk assessed before entering the practice. Patients will also continue to wear masks at all times, unless receiving treatment, in line with guidance from Public Health England. All clinicians and team members will of course continue to socially distance when possible and while the reception area can be used, we will ensure that there is an acceptable space between patients.

It is clearly an evolving situation and it is thought that updated Infection Prevention and Control procedures for dental practices may be issued later in the year. We will of course notify patients of any changes as soon as they have been announced. In the meantime we all should continue to do all we can to avoid contracting the virus.

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20<sup>th</sup> July 2021