



Dear patients due to the recent lockdown implemented by the QLD Government regarding Covid 19 we wish to provide our patients with an update. As we are deemed an essential service we will remain open during the lockdown. The Australian Dental Association www.ada.gov.au has provided updates and information that should be applied by dental clinics to ensure the safety of our patients, our team and the wider community.

Norfolk Village Dental is extremely proactive in following the stringent infection control policies set out by the Dental Board of Australia www.dentalboard.gov.au and the practice is accredited to the National Safety and Quality Health Service standards.

We adhere to the following regulations

- The Dental Board of Australia's [Policies and Guidelines](#)
- * The Australian Dental association's [Guidelines For Infection Control](#)
- * The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) [Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare \(2019\)](#)
- * Standards Australia's AS/NZS4815. This specifies the requirements by dental practices and practices necessary for the effective and safe reprocessing, storage, handling and transportation of reusable medical devices in human health care

The team at Norfolk Village Dental perform stringent cross infection control measures for every patient and these are part of our regular procedures, they include:

- The implementation of good hand hygiene including effective hand washing compliant with the national hand hygiene guidelines from Hand Hygiene Australia www.hha.org.au
- The use of personal protective equipment such as latex free gloves, dental masks, eye protection and protective outer wear
- Carrying out effective clinical and contaminated waste disposal and sharps in the recommended manner
- Carrying out environmental cleaning of the dental surgery between patients and at the beginning and end of the day and all other areas within the practice.
- Placing environmental barriers, disposable plastic coverings on surfaces that are in constant use such as the dental light which are changed between patients
- Using a "no touch" technique during dental treatment

- Steam sterilisation (autoclaving) of instruments also encompassing recording, testing, monitoring validation and maintenance
- Single use items that cannot be sterilised
- Decontamination of dental impressions and devices worn in the mouth

How are we implementing specific protections against Novel Corona virus Covid 19?

At Norfolk Village Dental we carry out “standard precautions” for all of our patients and members of the dental team. Regarding “extra” precautions for Corona Virus we are carrying out excellent hand hygiene measures and encouraging our patients to use our hand sanitising gel before they enter the surgery. We are practicing the recommended cough etiquette and have implemented rinsing with a mouthwash for 30 seconds prior to all dental treatment.

We are also calling and screening patients before their appointments and asking if they have had any symptoms relating to Covid 19 as per the Australian Dental Association’s www.ada.org.au guidelines to assess if this puts the patient in a potentially infectious category. These include

- Showing clinical symptoms such as cough, fever, shortness of breath
- Have recently travelled overseas or have come into contact with anyone who has travelled overseas particularly from countries that have been shortlisted with a high risk of transmission.
- Have had contact with a person who is a confirmed case of Covid 19

If we confirm that the patient fits into these categories and the appointment is not an emergency we recommend that they check the guidelines The Queensland Department of Health website www.health.gov.au

Norfolk Village Dental are proud to say that our team follows strict infection control protocols and staff are highly trained in carrying out these procedures. As an additional measure our team have completed the Covid 19 infection control training by the Australian Government Department of Health www.health.gov.au