

Complete Dental Care COVID-19 Update

21 April 2020

The National Cabinet has just announced the winding back of medical procedures from Level 3 to Level 2. What does this mean for Dentistry?

From 27 April 2020 many Elective Surgical Procedures and most routine Dental Procedures can now be performed. Some restrictions and measures still apply including:

- COVID-19 pre appointment screening
- Telephone the front desk upon arrival before entering premises to prevent casual contacts in the waiting room
- hand sanitiser upon entering the practice
- recording of temperature upon arrival
- waiting room protocols/social distancing apply

The table below, as supplied by the ADA, outlines available treatments and protocols

Level 2 Restrictions	Provision of dental treatments that are unlikely to generate aerosols or where aerosols generated have the presence of minimal saliva/blood due to the use of rubber dam. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Examinations- Simple non-invasive fillings without use of high-speed handpieces- Restorative procedures using high speed handpieces only provided with the use of rubber dam- Non-surgical extractions- Hand scaling (no use of ultrasonic scalers)- Medical management of soft tissue presentations (such as ulcers)- Temporomandibular dysfunction management- Denture procedures- Preventative procedures such as the application of topical remineralising agents e.g. fluoride- Orthodontic treatment	Defer all treatments that are likely to generate aerosols which may include the use of <ul style="list-style-type: none">- high-speed handpieces without the use of rubber dam- ultrasonic scalers- surgical handpieces All surgical extractions should be referred to specialist oral surgeons/oral and maxillofacial surgeons who will undertake these procedures using transmission based precautions. Elective implant dental treatment should be delayed. Urgent dental treatment for people who DO meet epidemiological or clinical symptom criteria for COVID-19 risk or confirmed as a COVID-19 case, provided as per ADA Managing COVID-19 Guidelines
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Well done Victoria and well done Australia (so far)! The curve is flattening, our hospitals are now prepared for any future surges, our supermarket shelves are filling up and Personal Protective Equipment is becoming more available hence the easing of some restrictions.

Whilst these are all positive signs we should not forget the lives lost to date and the efforts we need to continue to sustain for the foreseeable future, to protect the vulnerable, the aged and of course health care workers who have already suffered disproportionately around the world.

Let's continue to work together.

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay committed.

Dr Adam Keyes-Tilley & the CDC team