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**Considerations for Vulnerable Groups-Risk Assessment COVID-19**

# Considerations for Vulnerable Groups in a dental practice setting during COVID-19

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| **Task specific risk assessment ref:** | Vulnerable Group Risk Assessment | **Date of assessment:** |  |
| **Activity:** | Covid-19 assessment for: | **Assessor:**  **Signed:**  **Approved by:**  **Signed:** |  |
| **Reason for reassessment:** | To review changes made since original assessment |
| **Location:** |  | **Review date:** | On completion of each outstanding control measures; thereafter following a health and safety incident, changes in legislation, government advice, location or personnel or  task change |
| **Overview of RPE/PPE requirements:**  (subject to location and activity being carried out) |  | **Overall assessment of risk is:** | Medium |

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| **Hazard with No Control Measures** | **Occurrence** | **Severity** | **Risk Assess Index** | **Hazard with Control Measures**  **Employed** | **Occurrence** | **Severity** | **Risk Assess Index** | **Additional Comments** |
| People at HIGH RISK (Clinically extremely vulnerable)  Solid organ transplant recipients.  People with specific cancers:  people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy  People with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy  People with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment  People having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer  People having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors  People who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs  People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).  People with rare diseases that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), homozygous sickle cell).  People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection.  Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired.  Other people have also been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, based on clinical judgement and an assessment of their needs. GPs and hospital clinicians have been provided with guidance to support these decisions. | 4 | 5 | 20 | All staff and patients to complete a COVID-19 questionnaire  Government “Shielding” advice must be followed  Government Social distancing must be adhered to  Staff with underlying health issues have been encouraged to raise any concerns to review the possibility of working from home wherever practicable.  Current Government and Dental Guidance is to be followed. | 2 | 5 | 10 | Refer staff and patients to their GP for further advice/support and keep abreast with emerging Government advice  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>  <https://www.nhsemployers.org/covid19/health-safety-and-wellbeing/supporting-our-most-vulnerable-people>  <https://www.nhsemployers.org/covid19/health-safety-and-wellbeing/risk-assessments-for-staff>  <https://www.nhsemployers.org/covid19/health-safety-and-wellbeing/enabling-and-supporting-staff-to-work-from-home> |
| People at Moderate Risk (Clinically vulnerable)  70 or older, are pregnant,  have a lung condition that's not severe (such as asthma, COPD, emphysema or bronchitis), have heart disease (such as heart failure), have diabetes  have chronic kidney disease  have liver disease (such as hepatitis), have a condition affecting the brain or nerves (such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis or cerebral palsy), have a condition that means they have a high risk of getting infections, are taking medicine that can affect the immune system (such as low doses of steroids)  are very obese (a BMI of 40 or above) | 2 | 5 | 10 | All staff and patients to complete a COVID-19 questionnaire  Government advice is to stay at home where possible  Government Social distancing must be adhered to  Staff with underlying health issues have been encouraged to raise any concerns to review the possibility of working from home wherever practicable.  Current Government and Dental Guidance is to be followed. | 2 | 4 | 8 | Refer staff and patients to their GP for further advice/support and keep abreast with emerging Government advice  <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk/advice-for-people-at-high-risk/>  <https://www.nhsemployers.org/covid19/health-safety-and-wellbeing/supporting-our-most-vulnerable-people>  <https://www.nhsemployers.org/covid19/health-safety-and-wellbeing/risk-assessments-for-staff>  <https://www.nhsemployers.org/covid19/health-safety-and-wellbeing/enabling-and-supporting-staff-to-work-from-home> |
| Age, Sex and Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME)  BME aged 55 and over particularly those with comorbidities-Deemed HIGH RISK  White European Ethnicity aged 60 and over  Males deemed at higher risk | 4 | 5 | 20 | All staff and patients to complete a COVID-19 questionnaire  Government Social distancing must be adhered to  Staff with underlying health issues have been encouraged to raise any concerns to review the possibility of working from home wherever practicable.  Current Chief Dental Officer SOP to be followed for patients  If staff have not been identified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable or Clinically Vulnerable, return to work can be permitted following the below control measures are implemented:   * Attempt to travel in least crowded areas of transport if remote working is not possible * Avoid public transport routes and travel alone by car or by bike. * If public transport must be used, where a mask or face covering always and face away from other members of the public. Use/carry hand sanitiser. Observe social distancing where possible * Wash hands immediately on arriving at the practice and at home * Do not wear clinical/practice uniform to travel to and from work. Ensure that all uniforms are left at the practice to be laundered daily. Be careful not to sneeze/ cough over any documentation. * Minimise the handling of documents or leave for 72hours where possible before opening * Wipe down with antibacterial wipes if any significant risk of contamination and wash hands immediately after opening * Staff to wash hands thoroughly * Wipe down drink cans/ food packages. * Include vending machine (if applicable) * Bring pre-packed lunches * Do not share food * Minimise staff contact and observe social distancing * Do not share cups/plates/cutlery etc Avoid going out to lunch where possible and particularly crowded areas. * Assess standards of takeaway food hygiene. * Observe personal spacing in queues * Wash hands on re-entering the practice and before eating * Rearrange non-essential meetings. * Where possible, meet remotely/online. * If online is not available, use the largest rooms where possible to ensure maximum personal spacing. * Prioritise use of Teams, Zoom or skype to conduct all meetings where possible. * Hot desking to be eliminated | 2 | 5 | 10 | Refer staff and patients to their GP for further advice/support and keep abreast with emerging Government advice  <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk/advice-for-people-at-high-risk/>  <https://www.nhsemployers.org/covid19/health-safety-and-wellbeing/supporting-our-most-vulnerable-people>  <https://www.nhsemployers.org/covid19/health-safety-and-wellbeing/risk-assessments-for-staff>  <https://www.nhsemployers.org/covid19/health-safety-and-wellbeing/enabling-and-supporting-staff-to-work-from-home> |

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| **Point Value**  **Parameter** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| **Severity** | No First aid required | Minor Injury | Significant Injury or Illness | Severe Injury | Fatality |
| **Likelihood** | Extremely Unlikely | Unlikely | Possible | Probable | Highly Likely |

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| **Risk Score** | **Risk Ranking** | **Action Required** |
| 1-6 | Low Risk | No additional controls are required. Consideration may be given to more cost-effective solutions or improvement that imposes no additional cost burden. Monitoring is required to ensure that the controls are maintained |
| 7-11 | Medium Risk | Efforts should be made to reduce risk, but the costs of prevention should be carefully measured and limited. Risk reduction measures should be implemented. Where a moderate risk is associated with extremely harmful consequences, further assessment may be necessary to establish more precisely the likelihood of harm as a basis for determining the need for improved control measures |
| 12-16 | High Risk | Action required possibly move to lower risk group |
| 17+ | Very High risk | Work should not be started until the risk has been reduced. Considerable resources may need to be allocated to reduce the risk. Where the risk involves work in progress, urgent action will need to be taken |