

දුරකථන) 0112669192 , 0112675011
දුරකථන) 0112698507 , 0112694033
Telephone) 0112675449 , 0112675280

ෆැක්ස්) 0112693866
ෆැක්ස්) 0112693869
Fax) 0112692913

විද්‍යුත් තැපෑල,) postmaster@health.gov.lk
மின்னஞ்சல் முகவரி)
e-mail)

වෙබ් අඩවිය) www.health.gov.lk
இணையத்தளம்)
website)



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சுகாதார் அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health

All Provincial Directors of Health Services

Regional Directors of Health Services

Interim guideline on School Dental Services in the New-Normal phase of Covid-19 pandemic

This interim guideline is prepared further to the DGHS letter of "Interim guideline on service provision at School Dental Clinics during the COVID -19 outbreak" dated on 11th June 2020.

1. Evaluation of risk of COVID-19 and receiving patients to clinics

School dental services could be commenced in your area based on the decision made at the district level by evaluating the risk of spread of COVID-19.

1.1 Large gatherings should be avoided in waiting areas of clinics.

1.2 Patients are encouraged to adhere to the followings when attending clinic.

- Social distancing – arrange seating distance of one meter
- Basic hygienic measures - hand washing with soap and water / sanitizer - provide facilities in entrance / waiting rooms
- Wear a mask
- Respiratory etiquette should be practiced at all times

1.3 Discourage accompanying persons coming into the clinics unless necessary

2. Triaging

Ensure the availability of triaging mechanism at the clinic entrance as per the Annexure I.

385, සුවසිරිපාය, ජූජ්‍ය බද්දේගම විමලවංශ හිමි මාවත, කොළඹ 10, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව.

385, வணக்கத்துக்குரியபத்தேகமவிமலவங்சதேரோமாவத்தை, கொழும்பு 10.

385, Rev. BaddegamaWimalawansaTheroMawatha, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

3. Treating the patient


- 3.1 Routine dental procedures can be undertaken with necessary precautions. Out-reach clinics could be started along with the School Medical Inspections and its same rigorous protocol should be followed in out-reach clinics.
- 3.2 Record contact details of the patient which can be useful in contact tracing if a need arise (Annexure II)
- 3.3 Ensure adequate ventilation and air circulation in the clinic room
- 3.4 Use hand instruments instead of micro-motor as much as possible to minimize aerosol generation. Maintain proper ventilation and air circulation when performing essential aerosol generating procedures.
- 3.5 Adhere to the following personal protective equipment (PPE) by SDTs and their assistants engaged in triaging and treating the patients

PPE requirement for SDTs/assistants engaging in receiving and triaging	PPE requirement for SDTs/assistants for treating unsuspected patients
Eye protection	Eye protection
Surgical mask	Surgical mask
Gloves	Gloves
	Gown

- 3.6 Following personal protective measures need to be taken by the SDTs and their assistants
- All disposables items to be changed between patients.
 - All reusable to be disinfected appropriately
 - Face shields / goggles - 0.1% hypochlorite and soap with water or soap and water and 70% alcohol
 - Gowns and masks if reusing – washing by machine with warm water (60-90°C) If machine washing is not available, soak linen in 0.5% chlorine / detergent for 30 minutes.
 - Boots - 0.5% hypochlorite
- 3.7 Hand hygiene when handling the patients
- SDTT should wash their hands according to the proper technique before, in between and after completion of dental procedure/see a patient.
 - More caution should be taken by the SDTT to avoid touching their own eyes, mouth, and nose.

4. Disinfection and waste management of the clinic settings
- 4.1 In the Waiting room
- Remove unnecessary items in the waiting room including toys and newspapers/magazines.
 - Adjust seating in waiting room to ensure social distancing of at least 1m between seats.
 - Regularly wipe the surfaces with > 60% alcohol-based wipe including door handle, reception desks etc.
- 4.2 Inside the clinic
- After treating each patient, surrounding environment should be cleaned as follows.
 - Dental chair, tray, dental stool, light handles – Soap and water spray and wipe with 70% alcohol.
 - Doorknobs, tabletops and surrounding metal surfaces - 70% alcohol.
 - Hand instruments – autoclave.
 - Reusable dedicated equipment- 70% alcohol.
- 4.3 Public areas
- Public areas should also be frequently cleaned and disinfected, including door handle, chairs, and desks. Toilets should be cleaned with 0.5% hypochlorite
- 4.4 Management of contaminated waste
- The contaminated waste (including disposable protective equipment after use) should be disposed in the standard manner. The reusable instruments and items should be pretreated, cleaned, sterilized, and properly stored in accordance with the infection control protocol

The content of this guideline should be communicated to the relevant authorities and ensure its strict adherence by the RDSs/SDTs and other relevant staff, when functioning the school dental clinics in your district or province.


Dr. S. Sridharan

Director General of Health Services (Covering up)
Ministry of Health

Dr S. Sridharan
Director General of Health Services (Covering Up)
Ministry of Health
"Suwasiripaya"
385, Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha,
Colombo 10

C/o:

Director/Maternal and Child Health

All Regional Dental Surgeons – for action

All Supervising School Dental Therapists – for action

Annexure I

Triaging

- A. The following information will be used to screen patients with potential infection of COVID-19 before they proceed for treatment. These questions should include the following:
- Feeling unwell, including but not limited to symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, dry cough, sore throat or difficulty in breathing
 - Any history of close contact with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 within last one month
 - Any contact with a person with fever/cough, sore throat or shortness of breath but not identified/tested for COVID-19 within last one month
 - Travel history to any country within last one month
 - Living or travelled / visited to a location designated as high risk of COVID 19 within last one month
- B. If the patient answers 'YES' to any of the above questions and /or the body temperature is above 37.3° C, postpone treatment and inform the school authorities / RDS / MOH.
- C. If the answer is 'NO' to all these questions and the temperature is below 37.3° C, the patient can proceed with the treatment.
- D. If the patient is not at risk, proceed with the treatment. Please refer the Annexure II when taking patient history and consent before the dental procedure)
- E. However, even if the child is having high temperature and /or answered as 'yes' to any of the questions, if presented with an emergency with pain or swelling, please refer the patient to the nearest Dental Surgeon at a Hospital Dental Clinic/Adolescent Dental Clinic.

Annexure II

Information to be recorded at SDC during New-Normal phase of COVID-19 pandemic

A. Following information need to be recorded in order to track the patient and other contacts, if any need arise for contact tracing

1. Name of the Child
2. School, grade and class
3. Gender
4. Date of birth and age
5. Contact No – mobile / residential
6. Current address
7. Permanent address
8. Date and time patient presented to the clinic
9. Names of SDT and other supportive staff attended

B. Consent of parents needs to be obtained to undergo dental treatment during COVID-19 pandemic

“After understanding the risk involved in spread of COVID-19 through dental settings, I hereby grant permission for dental treatment for my child during the COVID-19 pandemic”

Name of parent -

Signature of parent –

Date -