

Continuation of Emergency Dental Care

The Taoiseach's announcement last Friday and the roadmap published by the Government on reopening society and business envisages that, subject to the progress to suppress COVID-19 continuing, that routine dentistry can recommence either on or shortly after 18 May (Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the plan). The Dental Council will issue further advice on this nearer the time.

While the present measures restricting dentistry to emergency services remain, we would like to remind dentists that you retain the clinical autonomy to decide, given all the particular circumstances, on what constitutes emergency care. In the present pandemic, your decision is probably going to include treatments that in more normal times you might decide was not necessarily an emergency. If there is a doubt, you can see the patient if you are satisfied this can be done safely. Dentists should bear in mind that the public are obliged to stay indoors except for certain specified reasons, and that there should be a sound clinical reason for seeing the patient when arranging an appointment.

Your professional judgement remains key and you should follow your professional judgement and assess risks when deciding on the best care for your patients.

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