



E: NHSgeneraldentalservicesmailbox@gov.scot

31 March 2021

Dear Colleague,

Scottish Government policy on Ventilation

It is widely acknowledged that the coronavirus pandemic has radically changed the way we deliver all health care services in Scotland. The Scottish Government recognises that the dental sector is amongst those most heavily affected, due to the high usage of AGPs in dental treatment and associated operational challenges including the wearing of enhanced PPE, the need to accommodate physical distancing and fallow times.

Ventilation Survey

We are currently investigating ways in which we can support the sector and recognise that effective ventilation is one method to ensure the health and safety of patients and dental team members and which may aid mitigation of those day to day challenges.

To help inform government policy and allow us to more accurately assess need, we would encourage your participation in this short survey which addresses practice size, your readiness to upgrade and investments in ventilation equipment made to date. **The survey can be accessed online via this link:**

<https://response.questback.com/scottishgovernment/dentistry-ventilation-questionnaire>
and we would ask that your designated dentist completes and returns the survey by Friday 23 April 2021.

Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE)

A broader investigation of ventilation requirements across the NHS Estate in primary, secondary and parts of social care is also underway. SAGE, which provides scientific advice to government has been commissioned to carry out an evaluation of how ventilation can be optimised in healthcare settings. We will share the findings once available.



Current Clinical Guidance on Ventilation and Fallow Times

Meanwhile, it may help to revisit earlier guidance published by Public Health England and endorsed by the Chief Dental Officers of the four UK nations. This provides important information on a range of environmental mitigations as well as a useful algorithm for managing post AGP fallow times.

This guidance can be found at the following link:-

[Appendix 2: COVID-19 infection prevention and control \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-infection-prevention-and-control)

I trust you have found this letter helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Ferris
Chief Dental Officer