

## **West Sussex Community Personal Dental Services (WSCPDS)– Pandemic Flu Plan May 2009.**

It is envisaged that in the advent of Pandemic Flu the following action plan will be brought into effect for staff who work for WSCPDS. This plan is also summarised as a chart in the separate document entitled “Framework for Pandemic Flu Planning”

### **Treatment**

During a Flu Pandemic it is extremely unlikely that patients will attend for routine treatments. The focus of staff will therefore be to:

- Support the wider function of West Sussex Health as required (This will likely include such duties as distributing anti-virals at the West Sussex Health distribution points, dentists administering immunisations once available, and possibly managing call centres and advice lines) – This part of the plan and potential staff involvement will come from West Sussex health direct.
- Provide urgent treatment for patients without Flu symptoms at a number of clinic sites. This work will be similar to what is currently provided by EDS. The proposed sites are: Crawley Hospital, Worthing Central Clinic, and Jubilee Dental Centre
- In extreme cases provide emergency care for patients with Flu symptoms on a domiciliary basis using appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment). In time this duty will be carried out by dentists who have are immune either from having suffered the disease already and are therefore immune or have been immunised once available. It is envisaged that this type of contact will be infrequent and the amount of treatment which can be provided will be minimal.

A definition of dental emergency would be

- Bleeding heavily (haemorrhaging) from the mouth
- Suffering from a traumatic injury to their teeth or mouth
- Suffering from severe facial swelling
- In acute pain sudden onset not helped by painkillers

For these processes to be effective, careful telephone triage will need to be developed.

### **Training.**

The following training will need to be provided in the near future:

- West Sussex Health duties – distributing drugs etc. Training for this will be provided by West Sussex Health professionals.
- Telephone triage for dental “receptionists”
- Infection control including use of PPE and fit testing of respirators.
- Basic domiciliary care
- Recognising symptoms and screening patients.

### **Additional duties.**

- Stock control – In the event of a pandemic, stocks may become low, so please ensure adequate stocks of materials are held especially for urgent treatment of patients e.g LA solution, temp filling materials, consumable, gloves etc.

### **Rota.**

All staff will be on a rota to reflect the different duties being undertaken. This may be clinical dentistry or West Sussex Health duties. For the clinical duties we will be “overstaffing” sessions to allow for staff who may be off either ill or caring for dependents. Attempts will also be made to “re-base” staff for this time period to the clinic closest to your home. However, in extreme circumstances staff may be requested to travel away from their base to provide cover.

### **Emergency Dental Services**

#### **Action plan activation.**

In the event of a full pandemic we will be informed by the Health Protection Agency to fully implement our Pandemic Flu Plan. At this point the rota and action points will come into effect and you will be contacted either at home or work by phone to confirm this. Activation of the plan will also be sent out via “MSX DENTAL”.