

**From the Chief Dental Officer
Caroline Lappin**



BY EMAIL

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Dear Colleague

Updated UK IPC Guidance and Dental Appendix

As you will be aware, the UK Health Security Agency last week published both the main guidance *Infection prevention and control for seasonal respiratory infections in health and care settings (including SARS-CoV-2) for winter 2021 to 2022*, and the associated Dental Appendix.

The GDS Re-establishment Group, which is led by HSCB and has representation from Trusts, DoH and BDA, is currently undertaking work to amend the Northern Ireland Dental Operational Guidance and I will advise you when this is completed. The health and safety of dental professionals and patients is my main priority, and I wish to re-assure you that I will be following events in relation to the new COVID-19 variant, known as 'Omicron' in the coming days and weeks.

Accordingly, practices should continue to follow the guidance outlined in the GDS Operational Guidance with the most recent version issued on 2 February 2021.

Available at: https://hscbusiness.hscni.net/pdf/Prep_for_the_Re-establishment_of_the_GDS_020221.pdf

Yours sincerely



**Caroline Lappin
Chief Dental Officer**