

Passage House Dental Care

cold sore and common infectious illnesses policy for patients.

Passage House Dental Care's policy for common infectious illnesses outlines specific steps to safeguard employees health and wellbeing regarding all infectious illnesses and to ensure a continuous service to patients. The policy also helps to safeguard other patients' health whilst at the practice.

If you have a common infectious illness for example: Flu, Covid-19, MRSA, Chicken Pox, Cold Sores, Stomach Bug we would ask you to rebook your appointment to avoid transmission to our dental team and other patients and to prevent any treatment making the infection worse (eg Cold Sores). Remember to think ahead if you are ill and where possible cancel your appointment at least one day ahead* so we can give this time to another patient.

Many people call the practice and ask if they can be seen if they have a cold sore. If you have an 'active' cold sore, please rebook your appointment. In the majority of cases you will know that you have a cold sore prior to your appointment so you can call giving us at least one day's notice so that we can give your appointment time to someone else*.

Here is some information about Cold Sores and why we advise rebooking your appointment.

Herpes Simplex - COLD SORES

Herpes Simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) is usually associated with infections of the lips, mouth and face. HSV-1 often causes lesions such as cold sores in and around the mouth and is transmitted by contact with the lesion and infected saliva. Individuals usually experience a tenderness, tingling or burning before the actual sore appears, initially as a blister which subsequently crusts over.

All stages of a herpes virus infection can be contagious although fluid-filled vesicles are much more infectious than other stages of the herpes infection. Dental treatment should not be undertaken during the infectious stages unless it is a dental emergency. Reasons for postponing treatment include:

- The herpes simplex virus is highly infectious and easily transmitted
- Manipulation of the facial and oral tissues can exacerbate the condition and cause breakdown of the lesion and bleeding
- Spread of the virus to other areas of the skin can cause significant problems (new primary lesions, for example); infection of the eyes is a rare but significantly serious complication.

Reactivation of cold sores can occur within three days of major dental treatment (root canal treatment or surgery, for example). Dental treatment may also cause recurrent herpes in the oral soft tissue (mucosa) adjacent to the teeth.

Children are particularly vulnerable before they develop antibodies to HSV-1, so extra care must be taken to avoid spreading the virus to other areas of the child's mouth and face.

However, if you require urgent dental treatment and have an active cold sore, please advise reception that you have a cold sore at the time of booking.

**please be aware of our Appointments Management Policy regarding late cancellations (less than 24 hrs notice). This can be found on our website or in our reception.*

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