# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Policy

To protect both patients and staff and to comply with the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 and Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, *[name]* Dental Practice identifies, through the Health and Safety Risk Assessment, procedures that require the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). The practice supplies sufficient and appropriate PPE to protect both staff and patients and trains staff in the correct use of each piece of PPE. Storage areas for re-usable PPE are provided and re-usable PPE which is found to be faulty will be replaced. Disposable PPE is disposed to the correct waste stream (see Waste Management policy).

PPE for staff

Staff are obliged to wear PPE where this is identified as necessary in the Health and Safety Risk Assessment. Staff will be trained in the correct use of PPE (see guide to putting on and removing PPE in Health Protection Scotland’s [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual](http://www.nipcm.scot.nhs.uk/). Staff are responsible for maintaining and storing re-usable PPE correctly.

PPE for patients

The need for PPE is explained to patients by clinical staff.

Eye protection and bibs are provided for patients where required.

Gloves

Good-quality, powder-free, low-protein latex or nitrile gloves are provided for all procedures involving contact with bodily fluids (see glove use and selection protocol in Health Protection Scotland’s [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual](http://www.nipcm.scot.nhs.uk/).

Gloves are discarded after each patient or if perforation occurs.

Where latex sensitivity/allergy is identified in a staff member or patient, the procedures laid out in the practice policy for the use of latex products is followed.

Household gloves are provided for the decontamination of instruments.

Aprons

Disposable plastic aprons are provided for staff to be used during treatment and decontamination procedures.

Bibs are provided for patients where necessary.

Eye protection

Safety glasses with side protection are provided for staff to be used during treatment and decontamination procedures.

Safety glasses are provided for patients during their treatment.

Masks

Visors or disposable masks are provided for staff to protect against aerosols.

Surgery Clothing

Although not strictly PPE, surgery clothing is not to be worn outside the practice.

Surgery clothing should be laundered at high temperatures, following manufacturer’s instructions.

Policy last updated: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of next review: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*[Name and/or designation of responsible person]* Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The following staff have read and understood this policy *[include all team members]*.

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| **Dental Team Member**  | **Position** | **Signature** | **Date** |
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