

E: NHSgeneraldentalservicesmailbox@gov.scot

13 April 2021

Dear Colleague

Ventilation Survey

On 31 March the Scottish Government wrote to you to ask you to participate in our survey on ventilation equipment to help inform policy and allow us to assess need across the sector. We would like to thank those of you that have already responded and remind you that if you haven't responded yet, the closing date is **Friday 23 April** and the survey should be completed by your **designated or lead dentist**. The government's survey on ventilation can be accessed here: <https://response.questback.com/scottishgovernment/dentistry-ventilation-questionnaire>.

LFD Testing

The LFD testing programme commenced on 15 February and will be in place for the foreseeable future, until we have a better understanding of the degree of protection, and duration, the vaccination provides. You may feel that as you already have advanced PPE and as frontline staff are a priority in the vaccine programme that you don't need to participate, or perhaps that the risk of disruption to business is too great. Please see LFD testing as an additional protective layer against the virus and as an early warning that must be confirmed by PCR testing. Whilst the testing of staff is offered on a voluntary basis, we would strongly encourage all eligible staff to undertake LFD testing on a routine basis and would highlight the benefits to you, your families and your patients.

COVID-19 Surveillance Programme

We wrote to you on 16 March to advise that the COVID-19 surveillance programme in dental settings will be discontinued from the end of March 2021. The surveillance programme had been in place amongst a small number of practices to assess asymptomatic infection across the sector. This programme has been discontinued in recognition of the fact that dental staff are now undertaking LFD testing and it would be too burdensome to ask practices to undertake both testing processes.

CDO(2021)4

I trust you have found this letter helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Ferris
Chief Dental Officer