

SARS-COV-2 Risk Assessment and Implementation

For the entirety of this document it is assumed that the risk is “spread or infection of SARS-COV-2 virus” hereafter referred to as “the virus”

At-risk Group	Action Taken	Additional Info
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Team members - Patients - Visitors - Delivery Drivers - Postal Workers - Engineers, service personnel or technicians - Any other person coming into contact with the business in any way <p>In the usual course of attending appointments or entering the premises (see below for specific circumstances)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-screening of patients to identify anyone who may be infected with the virus (see appendix 1) and refusal of an appointment for anybody with suspected infection. These patients will be advised to follow health guidance issued by Public Health England, Department of Health or the NHS • Careful monitoring of team members’ own health status and refraining from attending for work if any of the criteria are met (same criteria as patients) • Implementation of infection control measures (disinfection) 	<p>Refusal of care, for at least 7 days (and to be appraised individually in light of specific circumstances) to anyone who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has developed a persistent cough • Has a fever • Has noticed a loss or change to sense of smell and/or taste • Has flu-like symptoms <p>Same criteria as above for assessing team members’ suitability to attend work.</p> <p>For any person who has been in contact with anyone with the above symptoms or has tested positive for the virus, staying home in self-isolation for 2 weeks is recommended, in line with government health advice.</p> <p>Infection control measures implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol sanitisers at entrance to the practice and in all treatment rooms and reception. • Hand washing facilities provided in clinic kitchen, which all patients will pass on their way to reception. Requirement for all patients to wash their hands for 20 seconds, with soap, before drying them with disposable paper towels. • Notices requesting patients and visitors utilise these upon arriving on the premises and at any time that they touch any surface or any of their personal effects (such as mobile phone). • Such instructions to be provided to patients prior to their attendance at the practice, either via email or phone, or both, including the following link to proper handwashing practice: https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/

- Implementation of infection control measures (“social distancing”)

- Education regarding avoiding touching of the face and, if necessary, hand washing or using sanitiser before and after such an action.
- Masks and gloves are optional and entirely at patients’ or visitors’ discretion (see below for special circumstances).
- Contactless or online payment methods will be utilised where possible to avoid the handling of cash.
- Sites of possible infection transmission will be disinfected with antiviral wipes or alcohol gel between every single patient visit. These sites include: door handles, stair rails, seating, desk surfaces, treatment tables, card payment terminals, computer keyboards and mice, light switches. Also toilet seat and taps every time these facilities are used.
- Until further review, no front-desk team member will be present and all appointments will be booked either via telephone or email prior to attending, or by the practitioner at time of appointment. This minimises person to person contact on the premises as far as is possible.
- Patients are requested to arrive at the time of their appointment and no earlier, to avoid the need for anyone to spend time waiting in any communal areas.
- Patients are requested to avoid bringing anyone with them except where necessary for conducting the appointment, such as a translator or carer.
- Children under 16 should have a parent or guardian with them at all times, as per our usual policy.
- Appointments will be booked at time intervals so as to provide time for disinfection between patient visits and to avoid the risk of

		<p>patients or visitors arriving at the same time and being unable to observe social distancing due to space in hallways and other areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointments for different practitioners, at times where more than one is present, are staggered for the same reasons as previous point.
<p>Patients or visitors considered “high risk” by health authorities</p>	<p>This group will be asked not to attend the practice and stay at home until government advice to the effect that it is appropriate for them to discontinue self-isolation. Due to the nature of chiropractic care it is not possible to guarantee that the virus could not be contracted while on the premises. Given the non-life-threatening nature of musculoskeletal conditions the risk is considered too high for this group.</p>	<p>This group includes people with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Previous organ transplant ▪ Undergoing chemotherapy or antibody treatment for cancer, including immunotherapy ▪ Undergoing intense radiotherapy (radical radiotherapy) ▪ Having targeted cancer treatments that can affect the immune system ▪ Blood or bone marrow cancer (eg lymphoma, leukaemia or myeloma) ▪ Bone marrow or stem cell transplant in the last 6 months or still taking immunosuppressant medication ▪ Severe lung condition such as COPD, severe asthma or cystic fibrosis ▪ Any condition placing them at high risk from infections, such as SCID or sickle cell ▪ Taking any medication that places them at high risk of infections, such as high dose steroids ▪ Have a serious heart condition and are pregnant
<p>Patients and visitors considered “moderate risk” by health authorities</p>	<p>Risk for these patients will be considered on a case-by-case basis and, if necessary, with the input of the patient’s GP or other medical healthcare provider. The risk-benefit ratio of attending for care will be considered and advice provided accordingly. For those considered suitable for attendance at the practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practitioners will wear facemasks and/or plastic aprons (both single use, disposable) according to level of considered risk. 	<p>This group includes people with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 70 or older ▪ Pregnant ▪ Lung condition that’s not severe (asthma, emphysema or bronchitis) ▪ Heart disease (such as heart failure) ▪ Diabetes ▪ Chronic kidney disease ▪ Liver disease ▪ Condition affecting brain or nerves (Parkinson’s, MND, MS) ▪ Any condition causing high risk of getting infections

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients will be provided with similar PPE (personal protective equipment) if it is deemed necessary or upon request by the patient. • All measures already mentioned are also employed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Taking meds that affect the immune system (low doses of steroids) ▪ Very obese (BMI over 40)
<p>All groups regarding PPE (personal protective equipment)</p>	<p>All PPE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All single-use PPE must be thrown away carefully and removed from the premises and disposed of by a suitably licensed waste removal company. <p>Surgical gloves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence does not support the use of surgical gloves in most situations. • Gloves are effective at reducing risk to the wearer but nobody else and significant risk of contamination is inherent in the putting on and taking off of gloves. • Gloves tend to deter handwashing and create a false sense of security. • Proper handwashing is the most effective measure for preventing transmission through contact with the hands. • If gloves are worn, the same handwashing requirement apply (see above). • Gloves are replaced every patient visit and never used for more than one patient. <p>Face masks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face masks are 3-ply, disposable and single use. • Extra care must be taken when using a facemask to ensure hands are thoroughly washed or sanitised prior to touching the facemask and following correct fitting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All patient appointments will be conducted with the practitioner wearing a mask and a plastic apron, unless expressly requested not to by a patient. • Surgical gloves are not indicated for routine use. • Any patient or visitor may request a single-use, disposable mask, apron or gloves at any time, at no cost.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facemasks must be replaced after every patient visit. • If a facemask becomes damp, it should be carefully disposed of and replaced – diligent handwashing should be carried out as discussed above. <p>Protective aprons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aprons must be carefully disinfected between each patient visit or, if single-use, disposed of in the same manner as other single use PPE, above. 	
<p>Team members receiving deliveries at the premises</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is always possible that deliveries may be contaminated with viral particles. All deliveries should be assumed to be contaminated. Handling of such items is safe provided the packaging materials are disposed of in the same manner as the PPE (above) and thorough handwashing is carried out after such handling. • The same procedure applies in the very unlikely event that a patient or visitor handles a delivery. 	
<p>Team members and/or patients with respect to mental health.</p> <p>Context: The current pandemic appears to be resulting in elevated levels of fear, anxiety, depression and stress. As a health care provider, Park Street Chiropractic Clinic is required to consider such</p>	<p>During interaction with team members or patients, if any reason can be identified that the individual may be suffering from deterioration in their mental health for any reason, including as a direct result of the pandemic, a number of actions can be taken. It is for the clinical team members at the practice to use their best judgement as to the appropriate option to pursue. Clinicians should be mindful that, unless they possess specific qualifications in mental health therapies, such as counselling, they should be sure not to stray outside of their scope of practice.</p>	<p>Action that may be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a safe space for listening to the challenges and concerns the individual may be having. • In the case of management personnel, taking whatever steps are necessary to alleviate any sources of stress or anxiety that are reasonably practicable, such as modifying working hours or conditions. • Acknowledgement that this is an unprecedented time and feelings of uncertainty, anxiety, depression and despair (among others) are entirely natural.

aspects and act accordingly.

Confidentiality is also of the utmost importance and no information must be passed to any 3rd party without the express permission of the individual (save for situations where notification is required by law).

- Enquiring as to what support the individual feels would be of most help.
- Referral to a mental health professional if deemed necessary.