



Page 2: Your information

Q1

Your details

First name	Ben
Surname	Simmons
City/town	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]

Q2 dentist or dental specialist

Your submission is in the capacity as

Page 3: Name of company/organisation

Q3 Respondent skipped this question

Name of company/organisation

Page 4: Your Person ID number

Q4
Please add your Dental Council Person ID registration number

[REDACTED]

Page 5: Please provide your feedback by responding to the following question

Q5

No

Do you support the proposed Supplementary risk management principles for oral health during the COVID-19 pandemic? If you do not support the draft, please share your concerns, reasons for your view, and proposed alternatives if you have any.

Q6

Please share any comments you have below:

I think there is a typo in figure 3. The way I interpret the gown requirements on figure 3 for low risk patients, it says standard requirements with subnote 4. The subnote says we must change gowns between patients. I believe this subnote was meant only to appear on the moderate risk column.

If I am wrong about the typo, then I object to the suggestion that we should doff our standard gowns between low risk appointments. The environmental cost is significant and the risk reduction minimal or non-existent in my view.

Indeed I have concerns that the doffing of standard gowns even in the moderate risk context comes with the added risk of contaminating the face of the dentist, particularly with shirt type fabric gowns. These will not doff in a safe way like a disposable plastic gown. Most will be heavily handled in the process and often come in direct contact with the face of the operator.

Submission 2: in my view the availability of saliva and rapid tests offers the possibility of downgrading a moderate risk patient to a low risk. This option should be thoroughly considered and explored. Many dentists, particularly those with vulnerable staff want to look at the option of screening unvaxxed patients and other higher risk patients perhaps such as those recently in Auckland.

Submission 3:

The trafficking light system appears to have no bearing on the protocols on this draft. Surely there is room for slightly more relaxed protocols in a green region as opposed to a red.

Submission 4: the school dental service will suffer considerably under these protocols. It is ridiculous that a single chair office should be considered higher risk than a multichair.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my views.
