

**29/11/21 Submission for amendment of - ['Supplementary risk management principles for oral health during the COVID-19 pandemic'](#)**

**Northland District Health Board Oral Health Services**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback of this document

Plastic Aprons:

We do not believe that plastic aprons provide further protection or benefit to patients nor staff than the PPE already in use for low risk patients. Plastic aprons have not been a part of previous guidelines and add an additional environmental cost through waste.

Multi Chair Clinics:

We struggle to understand the recommendation regarding multi chair vs single chair clinics, and associated difference in stand down times.

Under 12s as moderate risk patients due to vaccination status:

If all 0-12 year olds are maintained as moderate risk patients the impact on School Dental Services will be profound and disruptive to providing a routine dental service, mainly due to the stand down period.

If risk stratification for 0 – 12 year olds remains in moderate and no other changes are made, stand down times will result in being able to only provide an emergency dental service.

Northland DHB proposes that asymptomatic children identified as being at low risk for COVID-19 through screening questions are able to be treated as low risk patients for fluoride varnish treatments, exams, and bitewings, without the use of triplex. If aerosolising procedures are needed, patients could be treated as moderate risk with the appropriate protections in place.

My Vaccine pass:

The draft advises that the use of 'my vaccine pass' for identifying vaccinated patients on the government covid website it indicates that 'my vaccine pass' will not

be needed for health and disability services . Clarification around whether we can request the 'my vaccine pass' needs to be stated.

- It is proposed that the default risk for 0-12 year old patients should be low unless additional risk factors are identified (especially through screening), e.g. unvaccinated parents, or child is symptomatic.
- Moderate risk patients should only activate a 30min stand down if an aerosolising procedure was used.
- Full PPE for all treatments on children is unreasonable. It is proposed that if child is from an unvaccinated family, the PPE listed in moderate/high risk stratification will be used.