

Protocol for treating patients with cold sores

Cold sores (herpes simplex virus) are contagious and pose a risk to our Dental Team and other patients.

The herpes simplex virus is spread through contact, either directly with saliva or through the aerosolisation of it.

At the Ivy Dental Practice, Dental treatment will be deferred for patients with active lesions, as aerosolisation of the virus may occur during their dental procedures, placing both the patient and oral health care provider at risk for possible infection or re-infection.

Dental treatment should be postponed until the lesion has healed completely. Though the patient may be comfortable after you have applied a topical medication, there is still the risk of spreading the disease to the health-care provider.

Because herpes is transmittable to patients from dental health-care professionals who have active lesions, there is a risk of spreading this disease.

If a patient does attend an appointment it will be likely we will have to refuse the patient treatment due to the contamination risk. This decision will be made by the Dental Care professional treating the patient. Every effort will be made to reschedule the patient's appointment at the earliest convenience.