

Dear Alliance Member,

Following upon the guidance issued by the Prime Minister on 10th May and the announcement of the 'roadmap' for the gradual easing of restrictions, it is right that you might consider thoughtful and careful return to provision of service to your most dependent clients. Remember that this is conditional upon medical advice that the Government receives, and that lockdown can be reversed and re-imposed at the first sign of a second wave of COVID-19 infection. This has proven to be a highly contagious infection, and you must be careful not to infect yourself or your families with the virus, and you must not take it to vulnerable others to whom it could prove fatal.

All of the previous advice that we have issued remains valid, and should be observed:

If you or any member of your household is displaying symptoms (fever or continuous cough) you must self-isolate and avoid any contact with anyone else for a period of 14 days.

If any client that you intend to treat has shown symptoms (fever and continuous cough) then you must not treat them until 14 days have elapsed.

You must liaise with residential homes in which your client resides and follow any guidance that they offer you to protect their charges.

At all times use your professional discretion – wear gloves, mask and apron, you should protect your eyes with eye-shields unless you normally wear spectacles, do only what is necessary, keep the treatment time short to minimise exposure, keep your distance from your patient and try to attend when carers or family members are not there. Do not extend the treatment, or offer pedicure or massage to minimise contact.

Apply the tests....

- How likely is it that this client will need NHS resources if you do not treat, and
- Is the risk of the client's health and well-being in the event of receiving no treatment, greater than the risk of them potentially contracting COVID-19?

It makes sense to service those clients whose need is the most urgent first, so that if lockdown has to be re-imposed, the greatest part of the need will have been addressed.

Wear your protective tunic/scrubs, gloves, apron, masks and eye-shields. Wash your hands before donning gloves, and on their removal. Dispose of used PPE into your clinical waste. Do not touch your face until you have washed your hands thoroughly.

Stay safe. Watch out for further updates.