



General
Osteopathic
Council

Osteopathy House
176 Tower Bridge Road
London SE1 3LU

T +44 (0)20 7357 6655
DX 80729 Bermondsey
www.osteopathy.org.uk

Dear colleague

16 March 2020

With the constantly changing situation concerning the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we find ourselves in completely unprecedented and difficult times.

I wanted to contact you personally to recognise this, and to encourage you to remain up to date with the public health statements and guidance that are being issued to ensure that you, your patients and the public are protected.

Osteopaths, like all other healthcare professionals, have an important role to play and we are grateful for the contribution you and your colleagues are making, and will continue to make, to patients and the public and the health system in the short, medium and long-term. This was one of the reasons why the healthcare regulators came together earlier this month to issue a joint statement on 3 March 2020, which is available here: osteopathy.org.uk/covid-19-coronavirus

You will know that the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared COVID-19 a pandemic and a public health emergency. The UK's public health guidance is being issued by Government in the four UK countries, and not by healthcare regulators, and there is an onus on all of us to regularly check the information which has been published and is being updated frequently.

Our website brings together published information including links to advice from the Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England, Health Protection Scotland, Public Health Wales and the Department of Health Northern Ireland. You can find this information here: osteopathy.org.uk/covid-19

We strongly encourage you all to familiarise yourselves with the latest advice and to keep checking for further updates.

In terms of more specific clinical and also business advice, the professional body the Institute of Osteopathy has provided practical advice: ioosteopathy.org/news/covid-19-update. The government has issued advice for small businesses at: gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-those-affected-by-covid-19/support-for-those-affected-by-covid-19

This is an unsettling and worrying period for osteopaths, and for many other sectors.

As I said at the start of this communication, we find ourselves in completely unprecedented times. There are no easy answers, nor do there appear to be any quick fixes to bring this pandemic under control. As a profession we will need to work together to overcome future challenges along the way and our position at this point is to remain on top of the advice issued by the Government.

We here at the GOsC are keen to work with you to support osteopaths and protect patients, if you have specific queries, please contact us at: covid19@osteopathy.org.uk.

Kind regards

Matthew

Matthew Redford
Acting Chief Executive and Registrar