



General  
Osteopathic  
Council

## **Video transcript of Matthew Redford, Acting Chief Executive and Registrar, about clinics opening during the COVID-19 pandemic**

“I want to take this opportunity to speak to you today about whether osteopathic clinics should remain open. But firstly, and importantly, I hope that you are keeping as well as you can in these extraordinary times

We find ourselves in completely uncharted waters as the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve. I know this is a difficult time for the profession. There are no easy answers. The situation will continue to evolve daily and I want to try to give some clarity during this time of great uncertainty.

Since the Prime Minister’s address to the nation earlier this week, we have received an increasing number of telephone calls and emails asking whether clinics should close. We have published an [updated statement](#) which you can read in full on the [COVID-19](#) page of the General Osteopathic Council website.

In short, however, the government guidance does not yet prohibit osteopaths from continuing to open and provide care for patients. To reassure you, we are in regular contact with health authorities, the Institute of Osteopathy, and other professional regulators as we continue to discuss this matter. Should the government change their position we will act quickly to provide you with an update.

While the guidance advises you to continue to use your professional judgement in determining whether it is appropriate to see patients, we would urge you to consider the government advice to stay home and save lives, and to consider speaking to patients via video call or over the telephone if necessary.

The Institute of Osteopathy has issued a recommendation to osteopaths that all but [emergency and urgent consultations](#) be conducted remotely, over the phone or online. For those who choose to provide cover for emergencies, the guidance as to what constitutes an emergency and how these should be managed, is stringent, and must be adhered to.

We know that many of you have chosen to close your clinics, at least for face-to-face appointments, until the situation improves. For those of you who are continuing to keep your clinics open, you need to consider the benefits to your patients against the risks posed by undertaking that treatment both to the patient, yourself, and the wider public, and this needs to be in the context of the transmission of COVID-19.

I would just say again – implement the guidance both from government and our own [infection control guidance](#). Consider the benefits of treatment against the very real and significant risks associated with transmitting and catching this highly infectious disease.

The fundamental role of the General Osteopathic Council is public protection and maintaining public confidence in the profession of osteopathy. We will continue to work with you to that end.

These uncertain times present challenges and anxieties for us all, but we need to remember this, we are part of a community with strong values who come together to protect the public and patients.”

This video was recorded in the evening of 26 March and published at 8.30am on 27 March 2020.