



Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance

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The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

26 August 2020

Dear Secretary of State,

Covid testing for healthcare professionals

We are writing on behalf of healthcare professionals to ask for your assistance in ensuring that regular asymptomatic Covid testing is available for all healthcare professionals, in all sectors, who:

- May be at higher risk themselves due to having long term health conditions, age, race or other factors
- Treats patients diagnosed with Covid
- Treats patients who are at higher risk.

Our main concerns with the current Department of Health and Social Care approach are that asymptomatic testing is not routine, not regular and that it may be more difficult for healthcare professionals working in the charitable and independent sectors to access testing. We believe this is not in the interests of patient or staff safety.

We have also heard of some patients declining needed care because of concerns about contracting Covid from healthcare professionals. Some care homes are refusing access to patients if clinicians have not been regularly tested. This is particularly concerning given the effects from the lockdown has led to reduced activity levels for some patients, leading to an increase in MSK conditions.

Given the expanding capacity of PHE and NHS labs to offer more tests, we believe it is a priority to introduce regular asymptomatic testing for healthcare professionals across all sectors.

We look forward to receiving a positive response from you shortly.

Yours Sincerely

Sue Brown, CEO, on behalf of



Steve Aspinall,
Chief Executive,
British Association
of Sport
Rehabilitators



Catherine Quinn,
President, British
Chiropractic
Association



Rob Yeldham,
Director - Strategy,
Policy & Engagement
Chartered Society of
Physiotherapy



Maurice Cheng,
Chief Executive,
Institute of
Osteopathy



Karen Lay,
Chairman
PysioFirst



Graham N. Smith,
Chairman,
The Society of
Sports Therapists