

Briefing

19 June 2020

Armed Forces health – COVID-19

The NHS has a duty to deliver on a number of health commitments for the Armed Forces community (service personnel (regular and reserves), veterans and their families), to meet the obligations of the [Armed Forces Covenant](#) and principle four of the [NHS Constitution](#). Our priority during the outbreak of COVID-19 is to ensure that those who require NHS services can access them as easily and safely as possible.

We will be sending out this briefing fortnightly to keep you up-to-date with the provision of NHS services for the Armed Forces community, as well as latest guidance as we move into the restore and recovery phase of the pandemic.

Thank you for your continued support.

Latest COVID-19 information and guidance

- [Beyond the data: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups](#)
- [Recommended PPE for primary, outpatient, community and social care by setting, NHS and independent sector](#)
- [Using the NHS and other health services during coronavirus](#)
- Public Health England has launched an updated [Psychological First Aid digital training module](#) for all frontline and essential workers and volunteers. The course aims to increase awareness and confidence to provide psychosocial support to people affected by COVID-19.
- A bespoke online hub for people in the serving RAF community who are caring for family members with dementia has been launched. [Find the hub here.](#)
- Armed Forces Day will take place on 27 June to celebrate the Armed Forces community. [See how you can get involved.](#)

NHS healthcare for veterans and the Armed Forces community during COVID- 19

- **The Veterans' Mental Health Transition, Intervention and Liaison Service (TILS) and the Veterans' Mental Health Complex Treatment Services (CTS)** continue to support

patients remotely, with providers now looking at the future safe delivery of face-to-face appointments.

- **Dental practices** began opening from 8 June, with practices prioritising patients with the most urgent need. If you need help from a dentist, you should contact your dental practice by phone or email, and you will be given advice or offered an appointment if appropriate. For urgent dental care, you can also use the NHS 111 online service.
- NHS England and NHS Improvement are encouraging people to attend all regular **vaccination appointments** to prevent outbreaks of serious diseases and reduce pressure on the health service.
- Antenatal and new-born baby **screening** is continuing and pregnant women are encouraged to attend all of their antenatal appointments. Other NHS screening programmes, including breast, bowel, cervical and diabetic eye screening, are starting to be restored following the local postponement of some screening invitations due to COVID-19
- The Office for Veterans' Affairs has launched a new [study](#), undertaken by the King's Centre for Military Health Research to understand **the impact of COVID-19 on veterans**.
- [Army HIVE](#), [RAF HIVE](#) and [NS FPS Information Support](#) provide **information support on behalf of the chain of command to the serving community** through Information Officers, who offer an extensive range of information focusing on relocation, local area, education, accommodation, employment and training opportunities, health and wellbeing, childcare and travel. They will research answers to enquiries and have excellent links with Service and civilian agencies. This network provides a valuable point of contact for serving personnel and families during assignment relocations.
- A new podcast featuring interviews with senior executives, entrepreneurs, world record holders, and other leaders that have all experienced their own struggle with mental health or mental illness, is launching in late June. **Mentally Healthy Leaders** will tackle topics, including depression, anxiety, burnout, as well as inspiring recovery stories and how to create a new mentally healthier workplace. Episodes will be available [here](#).
- The second episode of **ON PARADE**, the show that discusses issues facing veterans in civilian life, is now available on [YouTube](#).