

Briefing

29 May 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 every week to keep you up-to-date with the provision of NHS services for the Armed Forces community, as well as latest guidance.

Thank you for your continued support.

Latest COVID-19 information and guidance

- Public Health England has produced an 'Active at Home' booklet to provide practical guidance to older adults on home-based activities to maintain their strength and balance. [Read the booklet here.](#)
- [NHS test and trace: how it works](#)
- [NHS test and trace: workplace guidance](#)
- [Combat Stress: Self-help resources](#)

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 via online / telephone support and, where needed, diverting them to other services that can better meet their needs.
- Chair of the St Pancras NHS TILS user group and veterans' mental health service user, Neil Davies, has **launched a YouTube channel**, [ON PARADE](#). The channel will be used to discuss issues facing veterans in civilian life.

- **Military Wives Choirs** across the UK have embraced virtual music-making to ensure they are still able to support their members through these challenging times. The health benefits of singing are well documented and joining a choir is known to improve both physical and mental health, and wellbeing. If you know of any woman in the military community, not just wives, who would benefit from this support, they can find out more about how to join on the [Military Wives Choirs website](#).

Supporting the NHS

If you have facilities and / or resources that could potentially be used to support the NHS, please complete an online form here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/L5B32S/>

The NHS is also seeking members of the public who would like to help on a voluntary basis. Find out more about our [NHS voluntary responders programme](#).