

# Briefing

5 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 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

- [Updated guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19](#)
- [NHS advice on mental health for children going back to school](#)
- The NHS Health at Home campaign signposts to useful information about how the public can contact their GP, order repeat prescriptions, manage their wellbeing and existing conditions from home. [You can find campaign assets here.](#)
- The charity Beyond Words has created picture stories and illustrated guides to support people with learning disabilities and autism through the COVID-19 pandemic. [Access the resources here.](#)

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

- NHS England and NHS Improvement are working with Defence Medical Services, the Public Health Commissioning and Operations teams and the Families Federations to ensure that when **NHS screening services** are restored, Armed Forces families affected are fully informed and face no disadvantage.
- The military have recommenced **postings and assignments** (of individuals, not whole units), which means that individuals and their families will be transferring around the country, to/from abroad and to/from the devolved administrations. Consequently, there

could be transfers and continuity of care issues for all, with GP re-registrations required for family members.

- The Ministry of Defence **Education Support Fund** recently opened for applications from state schools, free schools and local authorities. The bidding round remains open until 7 October 2020. To secure funding, applicants must provide evidence of the impact of mobility and/or deployment on their school. [Find more information here.](#)
- Public Health England has published a [review](#) into how different factors have affected **COVID-19 risk and outcomes**. The findings confirm that the risk of dying among those diagnosed with COVID-19 is higher in those in BAME groups than in white ethnic groups. To investigate the impact of race and ethnicity on people's health, the NHS has announced the creation of the [Race and Health Observatory](#).

### **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](#).