

# Briefing

17 July 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

- [COVID-19 - 'shielding' guidance for children and young people](#)
- [Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do](#)
- [Face coverings: when to wear one and how to make your own](#)
- The charity Young Minds has published its second report looking at the impact of coronavirus on the mental health of young people. [Read the report here.](#)

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

- NHS England and NHS Improvement is working with **screening providers** to ensure that people who are at higher risk or already have a positive test result and need follow up tests are urgently seen by screening services. In addition to this, there are plans to reschedule invitations and appointments for routine primary screening. As always, anyone who is worried or has symptoms is encouraged to contact their GP practice for advice.
- We are aware of concerns amongst the Armed Forces community that individuals may be differentially disadvantaged as **waiting lists** lengthen due to COVID-19 constraints. We have no evidence that this will be the case and we expect all waiting times to be equally affected by these new constraints.

- Former Armed Forces personnel will for the first time be able to identify themselves as veterans in the next **Census**. The move will allow central and local government to better understand the profiles and needs of veterans.