

Covid-19 Guidance 7

Following the vaccine 'roll out'

First and foremost, the BPC always recommends that Registrants keep abreast of the latest Government guidelines concerning COVID-19. We note the useful BBC article about the need for fresh and circulating air if people are in the same room- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/explainers-53917432>

Hopefully, most registrants by now would have had both vaccines. If you have not been able to access or secure your vaccinations for any reason, please contact the BPC's offices who may be able to offer you advice about who to approach and how best to proceed.

Over the past 15 months, Registrants and patients alike have had to adapt to new ways of working and maintaining contact. Many Registrants have now returned to working, either partly or fully in person. The BPC's advice about whether to do this or not remains the same. This being that Registrants have to make individual decisions, based on their own personal circumstances and judgement, and in doing so will be fully supported by the BPC.

When making such a decision, Registrants will use their professional judgment regarding what is in the patient's best interests, the context in which the treatment is taking place – in particular whether the consulting room is able to be Covid secured and both parties potentially being exposed to COVID-19 in travelling to the consulting rooms - and the therapist's own self-care and comfort.

Registrants are therefore able to say whether or not they are willing to see any particular patient in person. If a patient has not yet been vaccinated or has chosen to refuse a vaccination or is unable to have a vaccination for medical reasons, Registrants may choose to only offer remote work to such patients. If a patient asks to remain working remotely, and the Registrant is able to see them in the consulting room or, and in the alternative, the patient asks for a mixture of in-person and remote contact, the Registrant is able to make a decision about how they wish to work in the future with that patient. The BPC's view is that although remote working is possible, and has been fruitful in many cases, it is not preferable in most cases.

These guidelines are to be read in conjunction with the previous guidelines issued by the BPC and in particular, those which have set out how a Registrant might ensure the treatment setting is made as safe as possible. Registrants will be supported by the BPC in their decision, and we are advised that Registrants will normally be covered by their insurance provider if they have followed the guidelines so far as is possible in the unlikely event a patient contracts COVID-19 from the consulting room or a patient complains about the remote working changes.

Board
Professional Standards Committee
Registration Committee
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