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The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET

5 August 2020

Dear Mr Sharma,

Clear guidance needed for workers during local lockdowns

It has become apparent in recent weeks that it may be necessary in the coming months for the government to introduce local lockdowns, often at short notice, to contain outbreaks of Covid-19.

Where such restrictions are necessary, the complementary healthcare industry asks the government to provide clear guidance to workers on what they may, or may not do, during the period of lockdown. At present, the uncertainty and lack of uniformity means that therapists and practitioners, and other workers providing close contact services, do not know what is allowed, especially when measures are brought in at short notice. This could inadvertently result in rules being broken through ambiguity and lack of information.

We request, therefore, that the government introduces a clear checklist system, along the following lines, so that when local lockdowns are introduced, workers in this industry can readily access information through their local council for simple, clear answers.

- close contact services allowed **outside** high risk zone around face? yes/no
- close contact services allowed **inside** high risk zone around face? yes/no
- providing close contact services in salons and clinics? yes/no
- providing close contact services in the clients' homes? yes/no
- providing close contact services in dedicated rooms/spaces within practitioners own homes? yes/no
- travel allowed for work purposes to points outside area of lockdown? yes/no
- travel allowed for work purposes into a lockdown area? yes/no
- providing close contact services to clinically vulnerable clients? yes/no
- providing close contact services to clinically extremely vulnerable clients? yes/no
- other services where social distancing can be maintained? yes/no

A clear checklist such as above, which local councils could update as appropriate, would provide much needed clarity to help workers in this sector adhere to any restrictions, and contribute towards the effectiveness of local lockdowns.

Yours sincerely,

The Integrated Healthcare Collaborative

The Integrated Healthcare Collaborative (IHC) is a collection of the following 24 leading organisations representing complementary, traditional and natural healthcare.

