

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

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Dear Counselling Members & Affiliates,

19 July was a nominal 'freedom day' in the UK, marking the lifting of most legal restrictions relating to Covid-19 in England. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland continue to have slightly different rules in place. For example in Wales the requirement to work at home if possible remains till the beginning of August. Please make sure that you keep up to date with the alert levels and guidelines operating in your area. More information can be found on the government's website [here](#).

Alongside the lifting of legal restriction we know that rates of Covid-19 are rising in most parts of the UK, so the general advice is to proceed with caution and be especially aware of the needs and preferences of those who are clinically vulnerable. We know that some members and affiliates are working successfully in a hybrid way – seeing some clients in person and others via video or telephone. Others may feel that despite the lifting of restrictions this is not yet the right time to return to working face to face with clients.

The most important message from the UK government is that anyone responsible for providing a counselling service in a face-to-face setting must undertake a risk assessment. The updated guidance can be found [here](#). For our training affiliates the guidance is [here](#).

We have no significantly different Covid-19 guidance as an update on what we have provided before in relation to making good decisions about the context in which you practice, and being open with clients about what precautions you have in place (for example, health checks, cleaning regimes and sanitation, ventilation, face mask policy) so that they can make an informed decision about the risk associated with attending a face-to-face session.

### Practice Standards

ACC have been flexible with regard to counselling members upholding practice standards during the pandemic. However, we are now confident that members have adjusted to new ways of working so from 1 September 2021 we expect all members to be having the requisite amount of CPD and supervision required for their membership category. We have detailed CPD, supervision guidelines available in the members area of the website. If you wish to discuss this or have any concerns, please email [office@acc-uk.org](mailto:office@acc-uk.org).

Best wishes



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Association of Christian Counsellors