

Professional Network e-newsletter: June 2020 COVID-19

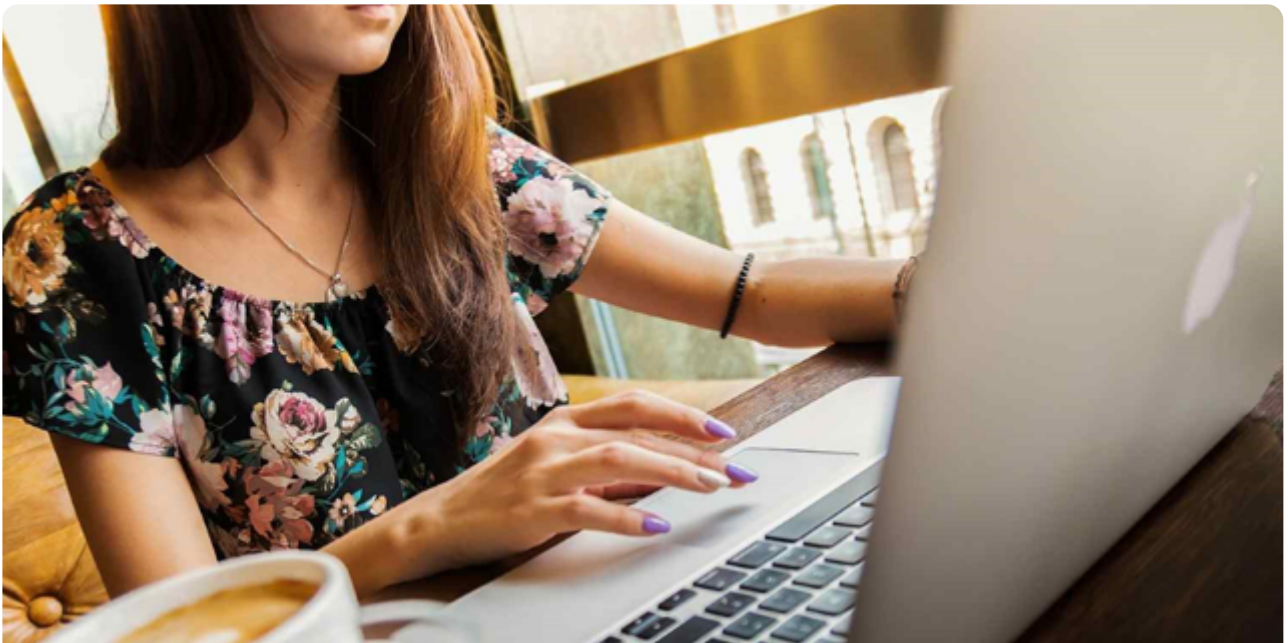
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MS Professional Network

COVID-19 is continuing to impact the work of health and care professionals. We are hugely inspired by your innovation and your service to people with MS, and everyone impacted by this virus.

Today we are sharing with you the latest information on COVID-19 and MS. We'll give you a sneak peek of data from the MS Register's COVID-19 study, and flag some useful resources that are helping people with MS to stay connected, and supported, during this time.

But first of all, as routine services are beginning to restart, we want to ask how you and your service is managing.



Survey: impact of COVID-19 on MS services

The MS Society and MS Trust are working together to understand how we can support you and people affected by MS over the coming months, and to advocate for neurology services at a local and national level.

We want to hear how you and your services are coping, and what plans you are making to deliver services in the next phase of the pandemic.

The survey is aimed at health and care professionals that normally work with people with multiple sclerosis (MS) in the UK, other than neurologists. It should take 5 minutes to complete. We would really appreciate your time. The survey will close Sunday 21 June 2020.

If you cannot access the survey via this link please contact professionalnetwork@mssociety.org.uk.

Take the survey →



Updated guidance: COVID-19 & MS treatments

Supported by our medical advisors, we are closely following what's happening with MS treatments and COVID-19 coronavirus.

Our COVID-19 webpage is updated regularly to respond to Government announcements and wider developments. This page is based on the advice of our medical advisors, the NHS, and guidance from the Association of British Neurologists which was reissued on 19 May.

[Read our latest information →](#)



COVID-19 study: interim findings

The UK MS Register is running a continuous survey about the impact of COVID-19 on the lives of people with MS. Data from the 2,387 people that completed the survey between 24 April and 11 May is already providing insight into the diverse impact COVID-19 is having.

For instance, 35% said they had appointments cancelled or delayed (for whatever reason), and a further 9% had cancelled or delayed appointments due to concerns about infection.

The full results of the survey will be published soon, please do not share this data before then. You

can contact brooke.lumicisi@mssociety.org.uk if you would like to know more about the findings and how you might use them for planning and influencing. Please encourage your patients to join the MS Register and help the MS community understand the impact of Covid-19 on MS.

[Find out more →](#)

Support for people with MS

We know that people with MS need support now more than ever. We're working with our community to make sure everyone affected by MS gets up-to-date information, practical help and new ways to connect – wherever they are.



Never alone.

The MS Helpline

Our MS Helpline provides emotional support and information to anyone living with MS. We are here Monday to Friday, 9am to 7pm except bank holidays.

We offer a range of specialist services including our new Keep in Touch service, which gives people the opportunity to have a weekly catch up with one of our friendly volunteers.

MS and COVID-19 on your mind? Freephone: 0808 800 8000

[Find out more →](#)



Time to Chat & Wellbeing Sessions

Many people with MS are staying at home. So, we are moving some of our support online.

Our new daily Time to Chat sessions are a chance to chat with others across the UK.

Our UK wide virtual wellbeing sessions and information webinars offer the opportunity for people with MS to explore different ways to live well with MS.

Read more about what people have to say about our sessions here, or sign up for a session below

[Find out more →](#)

Get in touch and spread the word!

We want to hear from you. How can we help you at this time?

If have you any suggestions or questions about the network, you can email the team at professionalnetwork@mssociety.org.uk. We are always happy to have a chat!

And please share the Network with a friend or colleague, it's very easy to sign up - mssociety.org.uk/professionalnetwork

Let's stop MS together



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