



Update for Members in England

We know that many of you were working towards re-opening your business for face-to-face client work from 4th July, in line with the provisional plans made by the government in their 'Covid-19 Recovery Strategy', published in May. In this document they listed 'spas and massage parlours', along with 'beauty salons', as businesses that might be permitted to re-open in July, assuming certain steps were met regarding infection rates etc. We may not like all the terminology used, however 'massage parlours' is the description most closely aligned to our profession, as listed in the government's strategy.

You may have already heard the Prime Minister's speech today, announcing that significant easing of lockdown measures will commence from 04/07, along with reducing social distancing requirements to 1 metre. Boris Johnson did not specifically refer to 'massage parlours' in his speech, however he did say that close proximity venues including spas must remain closed, in order to reduce the risk of transmission rates increasing again.

Under these circumstances we need to advise you that, in order to comply with government requirements England, you should delay re-opening your businesses for face-to-face client work until the government guidance changes.

For more information on today's announcement read the UK Government Press Release (regarding England)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-easing-of-lockdown-restrictions-23-june-2020>

In the meantime you might want to focus on preparing for a return to work which hopefully will be permitted before long. If you have not already read them, our Return to Work guidelines are [here](#).

The government website (www.gov.uk) has guidelines to help businesses prepare to re-open. We expect them to update this page as more types of businesses begin to return to work. This page is geared for businesses that are currently permitted to open, or if you want to check if you are. Once massage therapists and related professions have been given the green light this will be a useful page to refer to.

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-reopening>

Northern Ireland

It is our understanding that business which involve close personal contact may be permitted to re-open from 6th July – to be confirmed by the Northern Ireland Assembly. It seems that social distancing will be required and infection control measures adhered to.

General information regarding Covid-19 –Northern Ireland

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19>

Scotland and Wales

There is currently no change in guidance for practitioners in Scotland or Wales.

General Covid-19 updates Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

General Covid-19 updates Wales

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus>

We were hoping to be able to tell you today that massage therapies could re-commence soon, so we are sorry to inform you of a further delay to you re-opening your businesses. Hopefully we will be able to relay more optimistic news soon.

We continue to wish you the very best,

IFPA Board of Trustees and Office Team

23rd June 2020