

Fit Notes during the Corona Virus Pandemic

During the national emergency that is occurring due to the Corona virus pandemic, **GP practices will no longer be issuing Fit Notes** (also known as Sick Notes).

The government has made it clear in their guidance on the media and on their website what people should do with regard to self-isolation and work. This advice is easily viewed at www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response

There is a specific document on [social distancing and vulnerable people](#) which outlines what people should do if they are in these vulnerable categories.

The government has also made it clear that it is the employer's responsibility to support their employees in implementing this advice to protect the employee and other members of the public. There is [guidance for employers](#) on the same website.

The guidance is clear that **employers should use their discretion in requesting Fit Notes**.

If an employer insists on a Fit Note during this time of emergency, we would point out that this is distracting frontline health care workers from undertaking their jobs to look after those who are ill.

Any such request from the employer must be made in writing, explaining why the government advice is not clear enough for them to use their discretion. A fee may be charged for any response from the practice.

Patients can get a "self declaration" note for periods of isolation via <https://111.nhs.uk/isolation-note/>

We understand that these are challenging times for employers, employees and businesses. Please be understanding of the huge pressure that is currently on the NHS and GP practices as well.

We thank you for your cooperation.