

## CORONAVIRUS RISKS: CONSENT TO TREATMENT

Although it is legally acceptable for Joseph Stapleton Osteopath Practice to remain open and provide you with treatment, not least because this can help relieve pressure on the NHS, it is important that you understand the risks involved. These risks are minimal, and we are doing all we can to avoid any possibility of contamination, but the decision to go ahead with treatment must be yours, and must be based on the best information we have.

Therefore, please read the information below and, if you agree to proceed, sign the consent form at the bottom.

### **Staff Health:**

I monitor myself daily for symptoms of COVID-19, including testing my temperature. I am not currently exhibiting any signs or symptoms of the disease.

Between appointments, I wash my hands thoroughly with soapy water (this is more effective than hand gel) and change my gloves. I also change my disposable apron. I also change my face mask.

I am following government guidelines on social distancing when not at work. If I believe I might have been in contact with an infected person, I will self-isolate and not attend clinic.

### **Premises:**

All surfaces in the practice which might be touched by patients are thoroughly cleaned, using soapy water/an alcohol solution between appointments. This includes chairs, desks, card machines, pens, door handles and doorbells. All floors are mopped with soapy water at least once a day.

All patients are screened by telephone before attending the clinic to minimise the risk from an infected person.

I will try to ensure that patients wait in their cars until called in to the practice if this is possible. Generally, if there is more than one car on my drive, it means that I am seeing a patient. So, if you can wait in your car until I call you, that would be appreciated.

### **Patients:**

Patients are asked to use alcohol gel, provided, on their hands when they arrive and to wear a face mask, which will be provided.

Hand sanitiser is available for everyone's use.

Appointments are interspaced with a 15-minute gap in order to minimise cross-contamination and to allow time for disinfection.

### **The Risks:**

Coronavirus is most easily spread through close contact with a contaminated person. The most likely mechanism is through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. However, the virus is known to survive on various surfaces for up to 72 hours.

It is likely that a person may be contagious even when they display no symptoms of COVID-19.

It is impossible for me to guarantee that my practice is entirely free of coronavirus, but as you can see, I am doing everything possible to minimise the risk to you.

**High Risk:**

Some people are at higher risk from COVID-19. I try to screen such patients out before they arrive in the clinic, but if you are aged over 70, pregnant, immuno-compromised or have significant other health concerns (diabetes or COPD, for example), you are strongly advised NOT to receive treatment.

**Ultimately, I am doing all that I reasonably can to minimise risk whilst remaining open. However, I cannot eliminate risk, especially as COVID-19 can be spread by those showing no symptoms.**

- I understand that there is a risk of transmission of COVID-19 as a result of attending Joseph Stapleton Osteopath Practice.
- I agree that Joseph Stapleton Osteopath Practice cannot accept responsibility for transmission of COVID-19 should I become infected.
- I have had the chance to ask any questions I wish to and understand that I can discontinue treatment at any stage if I wish.

Signed: .....

Date:

Name: .....

If you are under 16 years of age, this consent should be signed by a parent or guardian.