

## COVID Coronavirus- Request for MED3 Fit Notes or GP Letters

Patients requesting a 'Doctors Sick Note' (Med3 Fit Note) or GP letter for absence relating to COVID19 Coronavirus.

In light of the current Coronavirus situation, we have provided this letter as standard response for all patients or employers who might request a Med3 Fit Note or 'Sick Note' for periods of absence due to Coronavirus.

Government advice for employees is as follows:

By law, medical evidence is not required for the first 7 days of sickness (employees can self-certify). After 7 days, it is for the employer to determine what evidence they require, if any, from the employee. To make it easier for people to provide evidence to their employer that they need to stay at home, we are developing an alternative form of evidence to the fit note. This is available shortly be available through <https://111.nhs.uk/isolation-note/>

In the meantime we continue to urge employers to respect the need to stay at home where they are following government advice to do and show flexibility in the evidence they require from employees.

From: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-for-employees>

Further information for employers is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/guidance-for-employers-and-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>

Employees must self-isolate in line with Government guidelines. In some cases this will be in the absence of any symptoms or an illness. In these cases the GP will not be able to issue a sick note as the time off is not due to an illness, and is not affecting their ability to work, but rather a precaution to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Whilst we appreciate that this may cause difficulties between employees and employers. GPs have a responsibility to prioritise the assessment and management of healthcare needs of patients who are acutely unwell, rather than spending time dealing with requests for sick notes, particularly when they aren't in a position to issue one.

GP's may issue Med3's for patients who advised not to work where the reason is NOT related to Covid19, however this will be assessed on a case by case basis in line with current demand.

This letter applies to all patients registered at The Deepings Practice.

Yours sincerely

Dr Louise Davies  
Practice Chairman