



COVID-19 – UPDATE FROM NARCH ON 5th January 2021

This update is not applicable to NARCH International members. For members operating in Wales, Scotland and Ireland, you should refer to your own local government Covid-19 guidelines, as these may differ from those of England. It is important that all RCHs, wherever they may operate within the United Kingdom, follow the latest government guidelines for their specific area.

LOCKDOWN FOR ENGLAND 4th January 2021

Following the Prime Minister Boris Johnson's announcement at 8pm on 4th January 2021 that England will, with immediate effect, enter a full lockdown, the NARCH Committee wanted to review all information available in order to provide a considered response to our members. Regulations for this lockdown are expected to be laid down in law imminently and are likely to remain in place for a period of at least 6 weeks.

Whilst our industry is not listed as a business type that must close, should you wish to remain open, we would recommend that you review your clients and then consider only essential animal health and welfare needs for treatment. If you do consider treating such cases on the basis that they would be negatively impacted by a "nil care" approach, then you must complete a full risk assessment and remind clients that the onus of travel rests with them, before you proceed with treatment.

We would ask that you check and refresh your risk assessment procedures, together with your individual Covid-19 existing protocols to ensure the continued safety of your staff, your clients, the public and yourself. Safe, social distancing must be adhered to in your centre, along with the wearing of appropriate PPE. We would also suggest that clients should remain outside your premises. You may wish to remind your clients and your team of the part that they must each undertake in controlling the virus, particularly in view of the increased rate of transmissibility of the new variant.

Whether you choose to practise or to temporarily close during this lockdown, NARCH will fully support all our members, regardless of their decision.

Refer to:

Covid-19 – NARCH Good Practice and Safe Behaviours for Hydrotherapists protocol document dated 12th May 2020

<http://narch.org.uk/Content/Uploads/COVID%2019%20NARCH%20-%20GOOD%20PRACTICE%20AND%20SAFE%20BEHAVIOURS%20FOR%20HYDROTHERAPY-000.pdf>

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