



2 June 2020

COVID-19: status of Registered Hearing Aid Audiologists as critical workers

The UK Government Cabinet Office guidance of 31 May 2020 identified the following groups as critical workers who are eligible to access schools and educational settings for their children during the Covid-19 crisis:

“Health and social care. This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and **other frontline health and social care staff** including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK’s health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment”

www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#critical-workers

In addition, on 1 May the Cabinet Office published a list of premises which are exempt from the lockdown closures:

“Dental services, opticians, **audiology services**, chiropody, chiropractors, osteopaths and other medical or health services (including physiotherapy and podiatry services), and services relating to mental health”

www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close-guidance

The advice above makes it clear that Registered Hearing Aid Audiologists are exempt from lockdown restrictions regarding their clinics and are also deemed critical workers.

BSHAA – the professional body that represents audiologists working in the independent sector – hopes this information will support conversations between schools and parents when discussing arrangements.

Kind regards,

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