

### Hello everyone

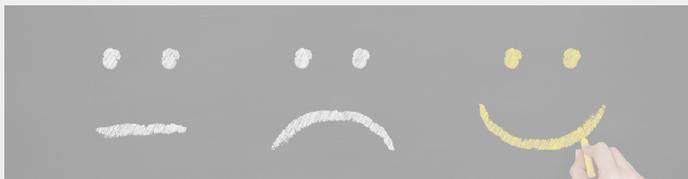
I do hope you are all still keeping well and keeping as safe as possible.



Life was already tough enough for cancer patients without having Coronavirus make things even more difficult. There are currently enormous challenges in accessing appropriate treatment and care and significant psychological, economic and social challenges posed by both being in and safely exiting the current lockdown, which will be far more complex to manage than the lockdown itself.

In this issue we include:

- An article about the impact of Covid 19 on all those awaiting or undergoing cancer treatment and the creation of 21 'virus-free' centres. **A special plea to employers – please bear in mind the psychological and emotional implications of delayed or interrupted treatment on any of your employees who have a cancer diagnosis.**



- A link to a recently published **CIPD guide for employers** 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): returning to the workplace guide'.
- A short article describing the **special challenges cancer survivors will face in returning to work** as the lockdown is gradually relaxed.
- An article about some of **the measures one of our clients – James Hay - has put in place to support their employees** during the lockdown.
- Three blogs about cancer and coronavirus:
  1. **Life under lockdown** by our ambassador Stephen Bevan
  2. **Diary of a cancer patient during Covid 19** by Heather Chaney (as reported in the Guardian on 27th April)
  3. **George Alagiah's video interview** about living with the coronavirus and cancer (as reported by the BBC on 31st March)
- A joint statement to which WWC contributed about the impact of covid-19 on breast cancer patients in Europe. Although the issues discussed are specifically about breast cancer in many respects, they apply to all cancer patients and survivors.



### The Impact of Covid 19 On Cancer Treatment



A sobering quote from: Professor Pat Price, a clinical oncologist and professor at Imperial College London:

*"We are most certainly going to lose more patients to cancer than to COVID-19. From patients that are not feeling like they can present to their GPs for good reasons, screening appointments cancelled and those that are in treatment having those treatments delayed or compromised. This is happening now. We have a backlog of patients that will overwhelm the service."*

It is currently estimated cancer referrals have dropped by about 70% and a survey by NHS England of 1,000 people found a third were worried about seeking help from their GP. There is some good news however in that regional "virus-free" centres have been set up in 21 areas of England run by **NHS Cancer Alliances** will carry out urgent surgery during the pandemic. Trusts have been told all essential cancer treatments must continue despite the NHS focus on coronavirus. For more information [click here.](#)

### CIPD: Coronavirus (COVID-19): returning to the workplace guide CIPD

Employers need to plan now for what is likely to be staged return to the workplace over what could be prolonged periods. Their guiding principle should be how organisations take care of their people and safeguard their health and well-being.

Many people will be concerned and anxious about being in workplaces or travelling to workplaces. They will want to know that their organisation is retaining their support for physical and mental health and are changing their thinking about flexible and remote working. This should be at the heart of any decisions and plans that organisations make. To access the Guide [click here.](#)

### Transforming Breast Cancer Together Initiative: Joint Statement About Covid 19

In the light of current coronavirus pandemic, the Transforming Breast Cancer Together initiative of which WWC is a founding member decided to issue a joint statement outlining the challenges that breast cancer patients are encountering during the COVID-19 pandemic. The statement emphasises the importance of ensuring that all those affected by breast cancer can access safe and quality procedures throughout the whole care pathway, from early diagnosis to treatment. To read the statement please [click here.](#)



### Going back to work as lockdown relaxes: the challenges for cancer survivors and working carers

Employers need to safeguard the health and minimise the risk of infection for all their employees but this is particularly important for those with cancer and their carers, who will be deeply concerned about infecting their vulnerable loved ones. Those with cancer and their carers will typically be nervous about.....

To read more [click here](#).

### One Employer's Approach to Health and Wellbeing During the Lockdown



During the lockdown a number of our clients have done an amazing job in introducing a range of initiatives to support their employees during the lockdown.

One of our clients - James Hay - has put in place a wide variety of activities which can be done remotely during the lockdown. [Here](#) are some examples...

### Cancer and the Coronavirus: Three perspectives



#### Life Under Lockdown: Stephen Bevan

WWC's Ambassador, Stephen Bevan, has written a blog about his experience of coping with cancer during the current lockdown.

'Just a year ago I was only part way through my treatment for oesophageal cancer. I'd had chemotherapy followed by major surgery and still more chemotherapy and some radiotherapy were to follow. I'd put life on hold....

After returning to work I made a modest attempt to look forward to a life 'after' cancer. That was then, this is now. To read more [click here](#).

#### Diary of a Cancer Patient During Covid 19: Heather Chaney

I was thrilled to find myself suddenly craving hot dogs. After more than a week of living off yogurt, pasta and green tea, it was a sign that I might be able to swallow something else and actually enjoy it. It felt like a breakthrough.

I found a pack in the refrigerator, but my heart sank when I couldn't find any buns. My husband, Eric, offered to drive the two minutes to the local store to pick some up.

No! I said, with an intensity I did not completely understand until after the word had left my mouth. Hot dog buns are not worth the kids' lives or mine or yours, I said. To read more [click here](#).

### George Alagiah on living with the coronavirus and cancer

"In some ways, I think that those of us living with cancer are stronger because we kind of know what it is like to go into something where the outcomes are uncertain," he told colleague Sophie Raworth. To watch George's video interview [click here](#).

### WWC Services Update

And finally, an update about our services for employers and for employees.

#### For employers:

1. We are now offering all employers who are new clients or who have not used our services for 12 months, one hour's free advice and guidance on managing people affected by cancer during this Coronavirus pandemic and/ or one hour's free coaching for an employee.
2. We are now running Virtual Workshops for employers and employees including our highly regarded Open Workshop. Please let us know if you are interested in signing up for one by contacting us via the website [here](#).



#### For employees/ self-employed and job seekers:



We are offering **3 free coaching sessions** to all new individual (ie. self-funding) clients - until the end of July 2020. Please contact us via the website [here](#) if you would like to take up this offer.

### And finally...

Some useful websites about Coronavirus:

- NHS latest health information and advice, visit their website [here](#).
- NHS 111 online can be found [here](#).
- Government [guidance](#) for business, employees and the self-employed.
- ACAS [advice](#) for employers and employees.
- CIPD [advice for employers](#).
- Tax [helpline](#) to support businesses affected by coronavirus.
- More articles can be found on [our website](#).

