

Dr Catherine Orji  
Dr Raza Rashid  
Dr Nirosa Vicneswararajah  
Dr Pelin Sahin

Warden Lodge Medical Practice  
Glen Luce  
Cheshunt  
Waltham Cross  
Herts EN88NW  
Enquiries: 01992 622324  
Fax: 01992 636900

Practice Manager: Mrs Helen Moth

### **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. These will be available shortly be available through <https://111.nhs.uk/>*

*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>

Some employees may be required to isolate themselves due to another member of the household being symptomatic, or through high risk. In these cases, your GP will not be able to issue a Med3 as time off is not due to illness, and isn't affecting your ability to work, but rather is a precaution to avoid transmission of any illness that is yet to produce symptoms. Once again, the Government expect employers to be sympathetic in these circumstances.

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 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 Warden Lodge Medical Practice.

Kind Regards

Warden Lodge Medical Practice.