

Reflections on our response to Covid and beyond: 'A new *normal* for occupational health?'

what's the next stage look like, what's the exit strategy and is this the new normal?

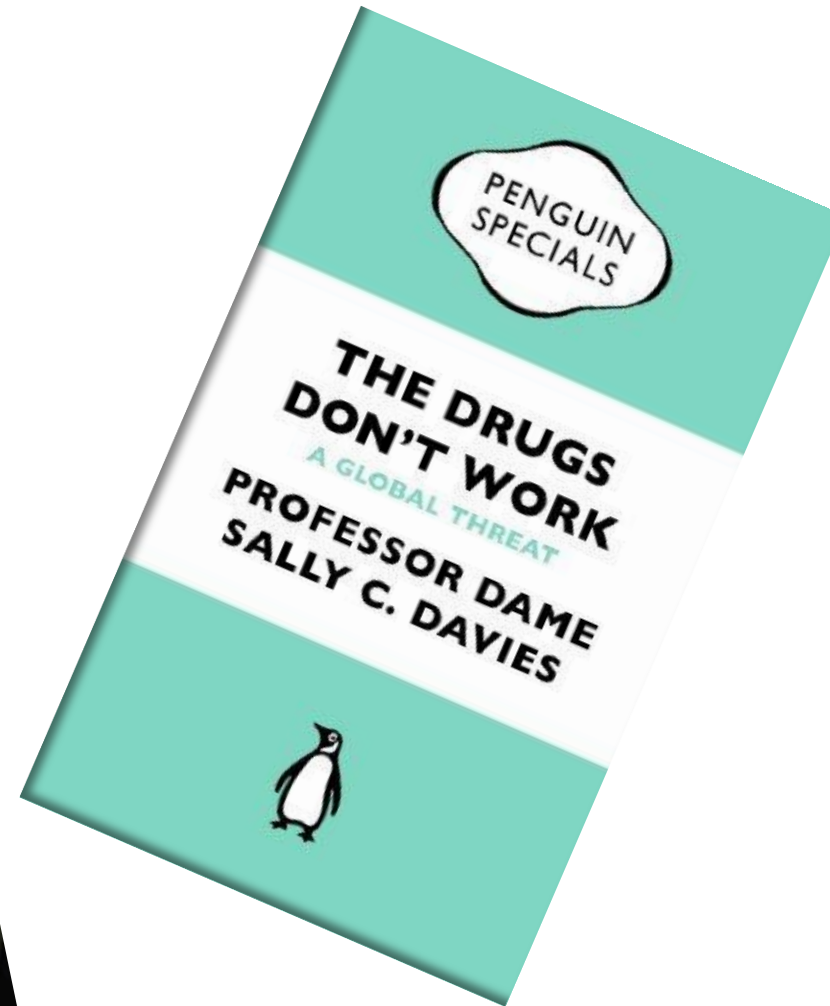
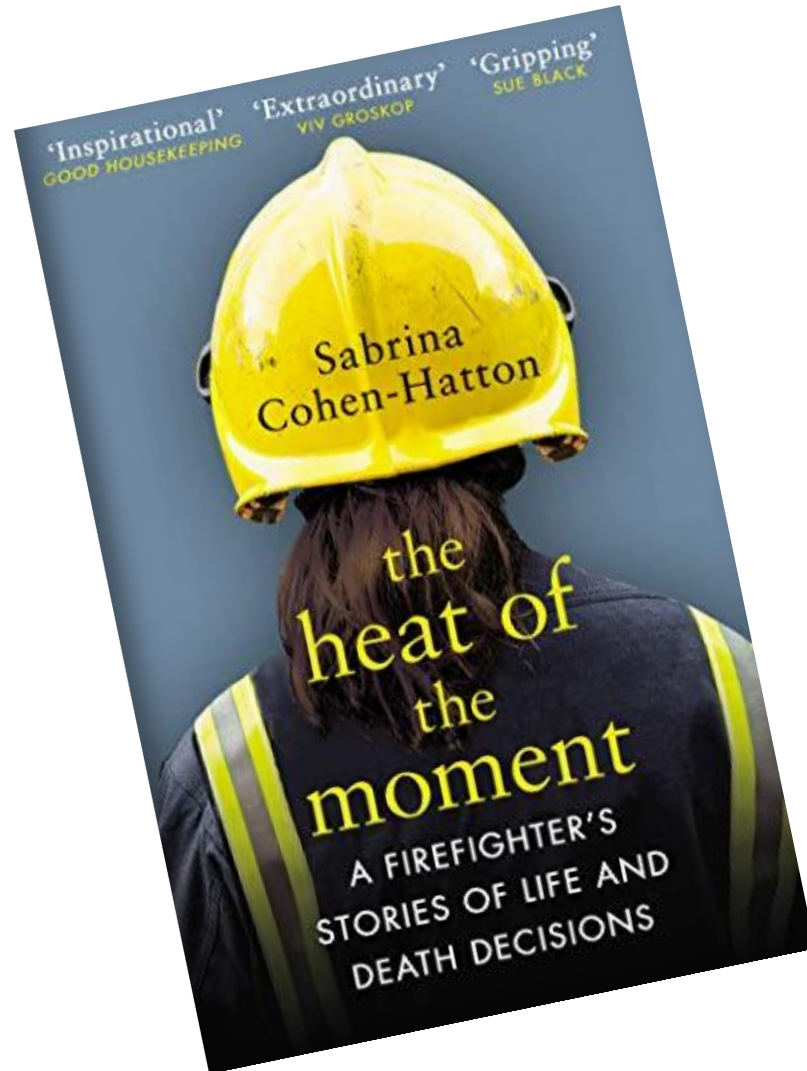
Giles Wright

Deputy Chair, NHS Health at Work Network
Associate Director of Workforce Health, CUH NHSFT

Workforce education committee –2019

- “OH has the potential to need to become a higher volume, higher risk clinical service in the coming years”
- “We believe that respiratory disease is likely to dominate our [OH] agenda over the next year to three”
- “Our vision is to a specialist clinical, responsive and trusted OH and wellbeing service”

Christmas reading 2019



What if someone had said...

“your service will need to handle over 100,000 patient interactions this coming year. It will double in size and scope, with a few days notice.

It will need to shape a strategy and setup pathways to screen thousands of staff each week, assess all of the workforce, duplicate the flu programme and operate in multiple new locations 7 days a week.

It will need to respond to a novel, changing viral threat, protecting every member of staff and respond to the personal impact it will have.”

TO PROTECT
AND SERVE



Clear shared goal

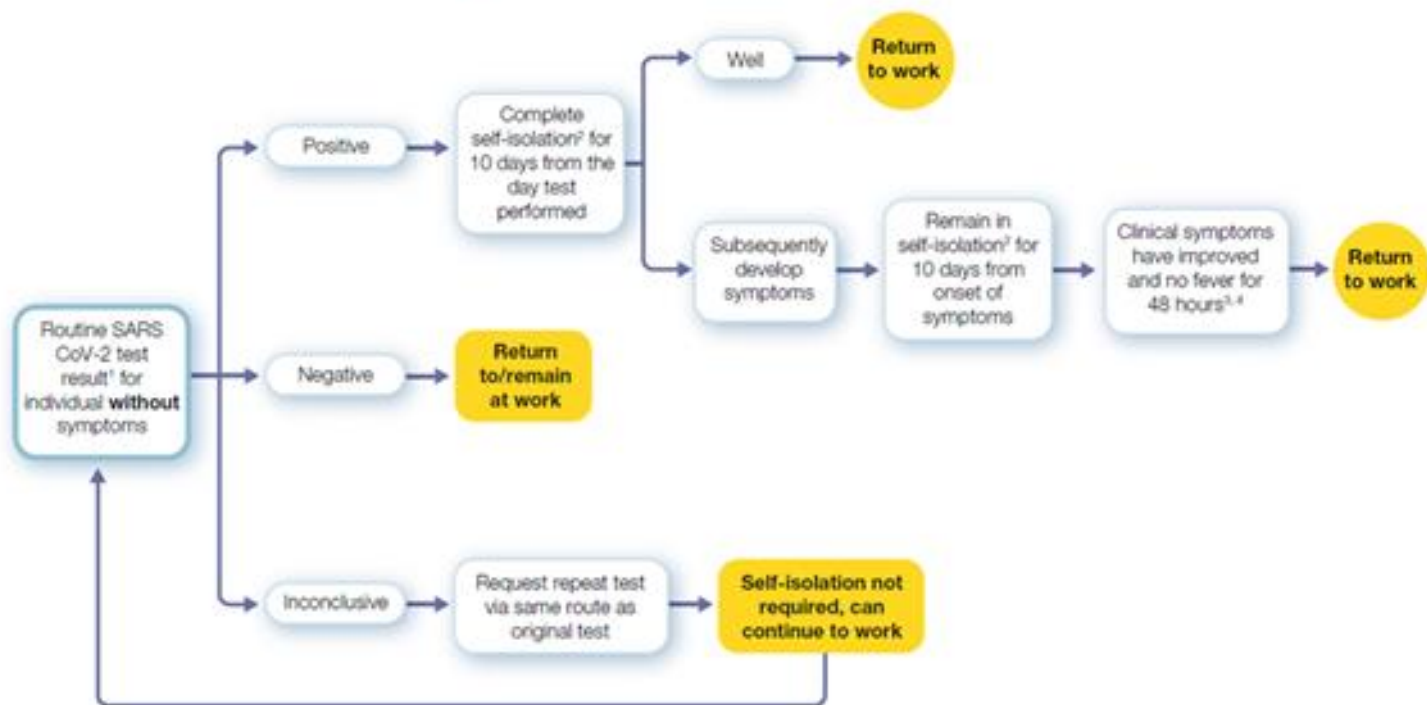
- Covid out, staff in and safe
- Assess, advise, test, trace, vaccinate and support



People

- Doubled the size of the team
 - Not OH qualified or experienced
 - Specialists in respiratory disease, research, info management, clinical ops
 - Structure – experts leading, teaching, supporting, overseeing

Asymptomatic worker: flowchart describing return to work following a SARS-CoV-2 test



1 This flow chart is not relevant to workers identified as a contact via the test and trace system (refer to [Test and trace guidance](#))

2 Refer to [Stay at Home Guidance](#)

3 Without medication

4 If a cough or a loss of or change in normal sense of smell (anosmia) or taste is the only persistent symptom, workers can return to work if they are medically fit to return as these symptoms are known to persist for several weeks in some cases

Policy

- Horizon scanning
- Interpreting, translating, adopting and implementing
- Scale
- Spot light
- Trusted and valued

Pace

- Pressure
- Investment and permission

TWO Hospital

[Home](#) [Episodes](#) [Clips](#) [Information and Support](#)



Hospital

CORONAVIRUS
DO NOT ENTER

Profile

This is our time... time to lead





New normal?

- Covid-19 here for a while yet (primary prevention/secondary response)
- Recovery... (tertiary rehabilitation – shape primary prevention)
- Specialist clinical service – valued, trusted and treated as such?
- Future threats foreseen?
- Getting upstream?







WE ARE THE NHS

We're getting ready for a COVID-19 vaccine, and you could help.

england.nhs.uk/JoinVaccineTeam

Papers





Purpose, Policy



People



Position