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Dear CEO,

Like your employees, staff across the NHS and social care are working around the clock to manage COVID-19 and all its impacts. We know that you are working incredibly hard to feed the nation during this challenging period.

It has been great to see several supermarkets change their normal practice to ensure that older and the most vulnerable people have access to food and other essential supplies. As you have been saying, if everyone buys normally then shops and supply chains will be able to manage. Together we can get through the next few weeks and months.

With this in mind, I want to ask you to consider how you can support the NHS and social care workforce. You have a key role in keeping health and social care going, and several NHS staff have told us that they are finding it challenging to buy food. This is sometimes a result of you having to adapt your practices, such as reducing opening times and running special shopping hours for different members of society.

The impact of these necessary measures will be particularly felt by those doing shift work who may only be able to shop at certain times. We will really appreciate it if you are able to put in place additional measures for the NHS and social care workforce.

Many thanks,



Professor Andrew Goddard
President
Royal College of Physicians