

COVID-19 Advice & Support

Fortnightly Update – 16th November 2020

This is our 21st update, providing a summary of all the information and key developments relating to the workforce implications of COVID-19.



Sharing Information

We have attached the latest update compiled in conjunction with the other Regional Employers and the LGA. The content is based on developments up to and including Friday 13th November 2020. In this issue we have information on:-

- New National Restrictions in England
- Vaccine Hope
- NHS Test and Trace in the workplace Updated 5th November
- NJC Circular - COVID-19: new national restrictions (England)
- University students - “Student Travel Window” - 3-9 December
- Schools: new guidance to reflect new national restrictions
- DfE School leadership support
- CX Top tips for dealing with COVID restrictions
- Environmental Health Officers Together campaign – recruitment Support
- Re-thinking the workplace – Webinar 27th November 10am
- Exit Pay Reform Updates (page 8 last page)

We continue to meet with the LGA’s workforce leads and our counterparts in other regions on a fortnightly basis – our next meeting is on 24th November. These meetings help to inform national guidance and support – if you have any issues or queries you would like us to take forward, then please email Sam or Lisa by close of play on Monday 23rd November.

Supporting Wellbeing – the next East Midlands Exchange

Our first virtual information exchange was really popular and one of the themes you wanted to explore through this approach was **wellbeing**.

The date will be confirmed soon, but ahead of the session, if you could let us know what you have in place or are considering implementing to support employees’ wellbeing, particularly mental health, we would love to hear from you so that we can compile the information to share at the Exchange. Please email Mila at mila.pereira@emcouncils.gov.uk

Sickness Absence Regional Survey

EMC is currently co-ordinating its annual sickness absence survey collating information for 2019/20. This year we are also asking for your observations or information on sickness absence patterns in the first quarters since March 2020 to understand the potential impact of different working patterns. Thank you to those who have already responded, and we'll look forward to receiving further responses by 24th November 2020. The results will be featured in the next HR Bulletin and will also be presented to the Regional Employers Board and Joint Council meetings on 25th November.

National COVID Workforce Survey and Result

A huge thank you for completing the fortnightly national workforce COVID survey. It does make a difference! MHCLG are very keen to keep using the data from this survey and it also continues to feed into the LRFs' dashboards.

We have streamlined the process so that you should now be getting the requests and links faster and directly from the LGA. If you have any queries you can contact Roopal Shah who is the LGA's survey co-ordinator Roopal.Shah@local.gov.uk You can also still contact us at EMC and we will be happy to assist or deal with queries. A copy of the latest questionnaire and survey results will be held on our website [here](#)

The latest national Covid-19 workforce survey reports are saved on our website and can be accessed here [here](#)

We hope this update, providing a round-up of all recent COVID-19 guidance in one place is useful to you. Contact Sam Maher and Lisa Butterfill at EMC with any workforce queries or issues relating to COVID-19 at:

sam.maher@emcouncils.gov.uk and lisa.butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk

All guidance relating to COVID-19 can also be found by visiting our website: [Workforce Information - COVID-19](#)

