

COVID-19 Advice & Support

Fortnightly Update – 19th October 2020

This is our 19th 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 16th October 2020.

In this issue we have:

- Three Tier system of COVID Restrictions in England Explained
- Guidance to the clinically extremely vulnerable updated (15th October)
- Enforcement and local compliance update
- Test and trace & the Support Payment scheme update
- Jobs Support Scheme (JSS Update)
- The Local Restrictions Support Grant scheme Update
- Travel corridors update
- COVID Workplace guidance Update (15th Oct)
- Adult Social Care Winter Plan
- ADPH Guide to support local communities
- Updated Guidance on safe working in Education, childcare and children's social care
- Test kits for schools and further education providers
- New Government Personal protective equipment strategy

Non- COVID Updates on:-

- Free recruitment support for ICT, planning and legal
- Kickstart Scheme grant guidance
- LG Organisational Development Programme – Update
- Exit Payments – the information circulated to you on Thursday

On the Job Support Scheme, the LGA has asked MHCLG for clarity around councils' ability to access the scheme and is waiting for a response. There is nothing in the guidance that appears to preclude local authorities accessing this scheme so we hope that is the case. On Kickstart, EMC is co-ordinating placements for councils to meet the 30 placement threshold – **contact** Suzanne.boulby@emcouncils.gov.uk to express an interest.

We continue to meet with the LGA's workforce leads and our counterparts in other regions on a fortnightly basis – our next meeting is tomorrow (Tuesday 20th October). These meetings help to inform national guidance and support – if you have any issues you would like us to take forward, then please email Sam or Lisa.

National COVID Workforce Survey and Results

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

We will be arranging for the LGA survey team to send the questionnaire to councils directly in order to give you as much time as possible to complete the survey.

Survey on Working from Home Allowances & Approaches

We hope to have the compiled results from across the country on allowances for working from home and approaches councils are taking. The regional results have already been shared with you and thank you again for everyone who responded.

Employment Law Update – Regional Webinar from Darren Newman

We are arranging for Darren Newman to provide a webinar for the region on the significant developments in employment law – with a particular focus on the exit pay cap. We will let you know the date as soon as it is finalised.

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](#)

