

COVID-19 Advice & Support

Fortnightly Update – 7th December 2020

This is our 22nd 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 4th December 2020. In this issue we have information on:-

- Vaccine and training vaccinators
- Community testing new DHSC Guide Published
- Council Contact Tracing Good Practice
- LG Inform COVID-19 Workforce Survey: latest update
- Enforcement – Its scotch eggs all round
- Environmental Health Officers Together campaign – Enforcement Support
- Job Retention Scheme Extended to 31 March 2021
- Adult & Children’s Social Work Health Check 2020
- Schools - School Examinations Support
- Schools - Ofsted Inspections Update
- Schools – New Funding to support schools to cover staff absence
- After Christmas Uni Return – Higher Education Guidance published
- Spending Review - Local government Pay 2021
- Upcoming webinars

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, 8th December. 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 start play tomorrow.

East Midlands Exchange: Supporting Wellbeing – 16th December 2.00pm

Based on your feedback, we are focussing our second virtual information exchange on the theme of **wellbeing**. The exchange will be a way of sharing approaches that you are taking to support employees’ health & wellbeing. For this meeting, we are also arranging for expert input and are pleased to confirm that Julie Hickton will be attending. She will focus on the aspects you would find most useful, so please let us know what your current concerns are and what you would like Julie to cover by emailing Lisa at lisa.butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk Mila is compiling your wellbeing approaches to share at the exchange – please email her at mila.pereira@emcouncils.gov.uk

Information Request – COVID-related Sickness Absence

A Council in the region has asked us to collate approaches to COVID-related sickness absence, particularly given longer-term effects of the virus on some people which is leading to longer spells of absence. Thanks to those who have responded so far, but if not please could you provide responses to the following questions:-

For Covid relating sickness absence are you;

1. Including the sickness absence relating to Covid in the calculation of an employee's occupational sick pay entitlement – Yes / No
2. Including sickness absence relating to Covid in attendance management processes – Yes / No
3. If Yes – is this from the start of the absence or after a specified period i.e. 10 days?

Please send your responses by close of play on **Wednesday 9th December 2020** to Mila at mila.pereira@emcouncils.gov.uk

Regional Sickness Absence Survey

Results have still been coming in from councils across the region in response to our annual sickness absence survey – thank you for providing the information to us. We will share the final results with you next week.

National COVID Workforce Survey and Result

Continued thanks 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. **A copy of the latest survey results can be accessed [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](#)

