

LGA/NARE: COVID-19 Workforce Update 2021

Issue 23: 5th December to 8th January

The LGA is providing COVID-19 advice which can be accessed via our [home page](#) you will see a range of information explaining our work with government on the [COVID19 Hub](#).

LGA workforce Team continues to provide workforce advice on COVID-19 [here](#)

Employment Advice can be accessed via the LGA Workforce Employee Relations Unit (ERU) the [latest bulletin](#) provides updates on a range of COVID-19 issues.

National Lockdown Begins Again

As we enter 2021 with hope of the vaccine it is now estimated that approximately 1 in 50 people in private households in the UK have COVID-19. With a more transmissible strain of the virus increasing infection rates the government announced [another national lockdown](#) this week. However there was some positive news this week with the news of [two more drugs found to cut deaths by a quarter in patients who are sickest with COVID-19](#).

Further COVID Funding

[The Chancellor announced £4.6 billion in new grants](#) to support businesses through to the Spring. In addition, a further £594 million is being made available to councils and the devolved administrations to support other businesses not eligible for the grants, who are affected by the restrictions.

Shielding Updated Guidance

The Government has updated the [guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable \(CEV\) during the national lockdown in England](#). The Government has advised that shielding will remain in place until 21 February. If it is to be extended beyond that, a further letter will be sent to the CEV group to notify them.

COVID-19 workforce guidance

With the reintroduction of a [national lockdown](#), colleagues are reminded of all guidance issued previously in [National Joint Council circulars](#), the vast majority of which remain pertinent to the current circumstances, particularly the **circulars dated 17 and 23 March 2020**. In addition, our [COVID-19 employment law and workforce FAQs](#) have been updated to reflect the latest position.

Schools Workforce Update

The Education Secretary has outlined government plans to support young people amid the closure of education settings during the latest national lockdown. [Gavin Williamson's speech](#) and the [accompanying press notice](#) are available for more information. [Updated guidance on actions for schools](#) was published yesterday, while a [blog](#) by the Department for Education (DfE) has also been published containing a Q&A on school closures, remote learning, critical workers and nurseries.

A school's workforce update is **attached** which gathers the school workforce related issues in one place at this time.

LGA webinar: COVID-19 vaccine communications

Communications and engagement will be crucial to the successful rollout of COVID-19 vaccines. The LGA have organised a webinar on Thursday 21 January to explore how councils and their partners can effectively communicate with all residents on the programme. It will explore issues such as vaccine hesitancy and countering misinformation. Speakers include colleagues from NHS England, the Department of Health and Social Care and Hertfordshire County Council. This webinar is free to all councils and government departments, and you can [book your place now](#).

LG Inform COVID-19 Workforce Survey

Key workforce data has provided councils with intelligence to effectively compare progress and plan locally, regionally and nationally. The LGA has been running a fortnightly [COVID-19 workforce survey](#) since May. You can view how your authority's data has change over time in the [trend report](#).

Restart – Help to support long-term unemployed

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is seeking input on its national procurement of providers to deliver its three-year, **£2.9 billion** [Restart programme](#) to help support long-term unemployed people back into work. DWP is inviting local authorities, combined authorities and LEAs to put forward one specific tender question for their area (by 22 January) and to nominate two external assessors to review bidders' responses and help inform the selection process (by the end of February).

The LGA is happy to liaise with any councils who may want to discuss any CPA or Restart issues. In the first instance, please contact jasbir.jhas@local.gov.uk

LGA Workforce Webinars

[A guide to senior management recruitment](#)

15 January 2021 | webinar

[The essentials of teachers' pay and conditions](#)

16 and 17 March 2021 | webinar

[Past event - Exit payment reform webinar](#)

6 November 2020 | [Download the presentation and watch the webinar](#)

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