

Please see below the latest LGA and DfE school related Covid-19 news and guidance – circulated to HR schools / education leads in councils - 27.4.2020

1. Furloughing

We have updated the [LGA guidance on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#) (furloughing) as more information is coming through from government departments and reflecting councils' engagement with HMRC. HMRC's helpline has also informed some councils that where an employee has multiple contracts with one employer, it may be possible to furlough one contract where the funding for that contract has gone, and for the employee to carry on working under the other contract(s). Also, today the Department for Work and Pensions has confirmed that [furloughed workers planning to take paid parental or adoption leave](#) will be entitled to pay based on their usual earnings, and not their furloughed pay rate. Full earnings will apply to Maternity Pay, Paternity Pay, Shared Parental Pay, Parental Bereavement Pay and Adoption Pay. The [necessary Regulations have also been published](#).

2. Academy Conversions

The Department for Education (DfE) has clarified to us that arrangements regarding academy conversions, which will be progressing on a case by case basis. Each conversion will be judged on its own merits, with the Department trying to balance where the benefits for schools and their communities of continuing with their individual projects, outweigh the potential challenges in doing so. We have been engaging in these discussions as part of [our lobbying efforts for academy conversions to be suspended](#) to help councils with their more immediate priorities relating to children and education during this time. If you are experiencing any difficulties please let us know via coronavirus.enquiries@local.gov.uk and we will raise with DfE.

3. Hub guidance

It has also published [guidance for local authorities and education providers on making decisions on cluster or hub models in educational settings](#). This refers to the grouping of schools and settings in order to offer continued provision for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children.

4. Coronavirus testing

Guidance on coronavirus testing for essential workers who are self-isolating
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

5. Managing premises

The DfE has published [new guidance for schools and other educational settings on managing premises](#), which are partially open, during the outbreak