

Living with COVID-19 plan.

The past 2 years have seen many necessary restrictions imposed on everyday life to manage COVID-19, but these have come with a huge toll on wellbeing and economic output. Scientists (including virologists, epidemiologists, clinicians, and many others) and the Government now understand more about COVID-19, how it behaves and how it can be treated. As the virus continues to evolve, it will be important to continue to add to this understanding.

From Thursday we will be moved onto the 'Living with COVID-19' plan. This will mean:

- You will not be legally required to self-isolate if you test positive for COVID-19. But it is advised to stay at home if you can and avoid contact with other people.
- You will not have to take daily tests or be legally required to self-isolate following contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- The Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme will end. However if you were told to self-isolate before 24 February you can still make a claim up to 6 April.
- Staff and students in most education and childcare settings no longer need to test twice a week.

However local authorities will continue to manage local outbreaks of COVID-19 in high risk settings as they do with other infectious diseases.

From **24th March**, the COVID-19 provisions within Statutory Sick Pay and Employment and Support Allowance regulations will end. Meaning employees with Covid will no longer be eligible for statutory sick pay (SSP) from day-one of their illness – with SSP only being paid on the fourth consecutive day of illness.

From **1st April**, the Government will update guidance setting out the ongoing steps that people with COVID-19 should take to minimise contact with other people. This will align with the changes to testing set out later in this chapter and the idea that the government will no longer provide universal free testing in England.



If you need any help amending your COVID-19 policies, or have any questions regarding this change, please speak to one of our HR consultants