

17 February 2020

Dear Colleague

Novel Coronavirus: COVID-19

Public Health England (PHE), the Department for Health & Social Care and the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government continue to monitor the evolving situation with the outbreak of the Coronavirus.

The LGA has created a new [webpage](#) that collates useful information for councils including links to national advice, answers to common questions and campaign materials from PHE.

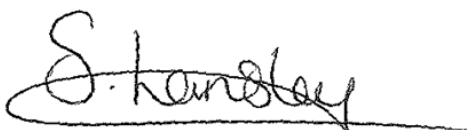
Government advice is being [updated](#) regularly and PHE is addressing common questions on its [blog](#). A UK-wide public information campaign has been launched to advise the public on how to slow the spread of coronavirus and reduce the impact on NHS services.

We also remind you of the provision set out in the 'Burgundy Book' at Section 4 Sick Pay Scheme at Paragraph 10 'Contact with infectious diseases', and Paragraph 10.1 and 10.3 as follows:

10.1 'When the approved medical practitioner attests that there is evidence to show a reasonable probability that an absence was due to an infectious or contagious illness contracted directly in the course of the teacher's employment full pay shall be allowed for such period of absence as may be authorised by the approved medical practitioner as being due to the illness, and such absence **shall not** be reckoned against the teacher's entitlement to sick leave under paragraph 2 above, though such absences are reckonable for entitlement to Statutory Sick Pay. '

10.3 'A teacher residing in a house in which some other person is suffering from an infectious disease shall at once notify the employer and the teacher shall, if required, take such precautions as may be prescribed, provided that if in the opinion of the approved medical practitioner it is considered inadvisable, notwithstanding such precautions, for such teacher to attend duty, full pay shall be allowed during any enforced absence from duty, such pay being sick pay for the purpose of paragraphs 3 to 7.5 above. **This provision will also apply where, in the opinion of an approved medical practitioner, it is inadvisable for a teacher to attend duty for precautionary reasons due to infectious disease in the workplace. The period of the absence under this paragraph shall not be reckoned against the teacher's entitlement to sick leave under paragraph 2 above, though such absences are reckonable for entitlements to Statutory Sick Pay.**'

Yours faithfully



Senior Adviser (Workforce & Negotiations)