



26 August 2022

Providers of care homes  
Providers of domiciliary support services  
Providers of supported housing

Dear Colleague

I wish to confirm that the Covid-19 statutory sick pay enhancement scheme comes to an end on 31 August 22.

As you know, this scheme was introduced by Welsh Ministers in November 2020 to provide financial support to the social care workforce. Up to the end of June 2022, the scheme has made payments totalling £8.2m to support social care workers to self-isolate or stay at home due to Covid. This has been an important support mechanism for the workforce and has aided infection prevention and control within services.

Recent evidence from the ONS Coronavirus Infection Survey suggests the prevalence of Covid-19 in the community is currently decreasing. We are reviewing the asymptomatic testing of social care staff and we will make an announcement shortly. Frontline social care staff are being prioritised for the Covid-19 autumn booster and this will provide social care staff and our most vulnerable citizens with increased protection.

The Statutory Sick Pay Enhancement scheme was always intended as a temporary scheme and consequential funding from the UK Government for the Covid response has since ceased. As we move from regarding Covid as a pandemic to endemic in line with public health advice, it is appropriate we bring the scheme to an end. I appreciate this will be a disappointment to many in the sector.

For clarity, the scheme comes to an end at midnight on 31 August. No absences started on or after 1 September will be covered by the scheme. Where guidance advises staff members to stay home, and the absence began on, or before, 31 August, the scheme will cover this absence for the duration outlined in the guidance. Further information and guidance can be found here [COVID-19 statutory sick pay enhancement scheme](#)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhiannon Ivens".

**Rhiannon Ivens**

**Dirprwy Gyfarwyddwr Cynhwysiant a Busnes Corfforaethol /**  
**Deputy Director Inclusion and Corporate Business**