

E-Mail Newsletter

September 29, 2020

14th Edition

Welcome to the 14th edition of our newsletter. Here you will find updates from the team and any up to date Covid related information we have. We hope this will be helpful for you and we welcome your thoughts and feedback. You can continue to contact us on our details listed below.

We would like to thank you for working with us during these difficult times to keep you safe and well.

Updates for this month:

Timesheets – The team would like to remind everyone that timesheets are due in on 22nd of each month, late timesheets could result in a delay in you receiving your pay. Please note that there are still delays in the postal system so we ask where possible please send timesheets to our shared email, details listed below.

PPE – We would like to confirm that all PHB holders are eligible for PPE should you require it. We ask that if you require PPE please contact us at Partner2Care before midday (12noon) on Mondays. Our contact details are listed below:

Email: sirona.partnertocare@nhs.net

Telephone: 0800 111 4167

Post: Partner2Care, Marina Healthcare Centre, 2 Haven View, Portishead, BS20 7QA

Covid testing – BNSSG (Bristol, North Somerset, South Glos) CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) have provided us with an update regarding Covid testing for PAs. Unfortunately BNSSG only have a very limited number of tests specifically for NHS and blue light staff, therefore, there is not capacity for PAs.

The current guidance is for the PAs to phone 119, attempting several times if they have difficulty getting through. The government has reassured the CCG that there will be an increase in testing over the coming weeks via 'lighthouse labs' which should ease the situation. We do need to continue to monitor though and feedback if we have ongoing concerns.

Furloughed staff returning to work – The CCG have confirmed that they will not be extending the government furlough scheme. Therefore, if you currently have PA's on furlough, you will need to consider their return to work by 31st October 2020. Whether you wish them to return or not a discussion must be had with the PA about whether they will be made redundant or will take unpaid leave. Please contact Partner2Care to discuss this with the team.

Updates continued:

Free flu vaccine – for personal assistants, all frontline health and social care workers should get the winter flu vaccination – including all Personal Assistants (PAs). For the first time, this year, PAs will be able to access the vaccine free of charge from GPs and community pharmacies, via the NHS Complementary Scheme. This vaccination is available now. (Local availability may vary).

To access the scheme, PAs will simply need to attend a GP surgery or community pharmacy and identify themselves as a PA.

Self-isolating/Sick Pay – If you have to self-isolate due to Covid symptoms or because you live with someone who has Covid symptoms then you will be paid SSP (Statutory Sick Pay) from day one.

Here are some helpful links and information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own#:~:text=Face%20coverings%20are%20required%20to,service%2C%20bars%2C%20and%20pubs.>

<https://people.nhs.uk/guides/shielding-and-returning-to-work/>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/working-safely/protect-people.htm>

Mental health and Wellbeing support

The AWP Mental health 24/7 telephone response line is 0300 3031320.

The following links provide additional information on how to look after your mental health:

<https://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help/support-and-information/if-youre-having-difficult-time/if-youre-worried-about-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak/>