



To: All Local Authorities and Social Care Providers

11 May 2020

COVID-19: Deaths of employees and volunteers in the adult social care sector

I want to thank you all for the incredible professionalism and compassion you are demonstrating every day to continue providing care and support in the most challenging of circumstances.

It is with deep sadness that we have learnt that some care workers have died from COVID-19. I know that this will be incredibly difficult for those affected, and I want to emphasise that the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is committed to doing all it can to ensure that employers, families, and the people who they cared for are given the support they need.

In order to guide our response, DHSC is asking for you to let us know if a care worker has died using the process outlined in the attachment. We would be grateful if providers could follow this process where deaths have already occurred, and if there are any further deaths. Employers are encouraged to inform the family, friends or colleagues of the care worker who has died that they are submitting this information. There is no legal duty on employers to submit this information to DHSC, but by submitting this information, it will enable DHSC to report the deaths of workers in social care more accurately.

We will continue to engage with the sector to give the opportunity for appropriate commemorative actions to be taken, depending on the family and employer's wishes. Collecting information on the deaths of care workers will help us to do this, but is only the first step, and we expect to update the sector on further steps we are taking to support employers and families in due course.

Please note that this process is distinct from the Government's [new NHS and Social Care Coronavirus Life Assurance Scheme 2020](#). The Life Assurance Scheme will be administered by the NHS Business Services Authority, and further information will be shared shortly.

This process is also distinct from reporting processes required in health and safety law. All providers of adult social care who are employers must report COVID-19 workplace deaths that meet the criteria published by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in its guidance '[RIDDOR reporting of COVID-19](#)'.

We appreciate that this creates another reporting requirement at an incredibly difficult moment for providers and have therefore designed the process in this letter to be as light-touch as possible. If you have any queries regarding this letter, please send them to ASCcovidinform@dhsc.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Rosamond Roughton

Director General for Adult Social Care

COVID-19: Process for informing DHSC about the death of a worker in social care

Please email the following details to ASCcovidinform@dhsc.gov.uk.

We would be grateful if employers could tell us about the deaths of all types of workers in the adult social care sector, regardless of role or employer, and including volunteers*. We would greatly appreciate where employers can provide as comprehensive information as possible.

Name	
Job role	
Employer	
Local Authority(s) in which they worked	
Date of death	
COVID-19 confirmed or suspected?	

*Employers would include (but not limited to) private companies, local authorities, charities. Both CQC-registered and non-CQC-registered. Role types would include care workers, managers, regulated professionals, and all other types of workers in the adult social care sector. We want to be as comprehensive as possible in the information we receive.