

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Care Workers,

**RE: Update on COVID-19**

A few updates for you from this very fast-moving situation:

1. **Key worker Status** – The government announced the closing of Schools yesterday apart from those parents who have been identified as key workers. As social care workers we have been included in this group. Schools will make provision for your children. More information regarding how we evidence this to schools will follow.
2. **PPE** – we have ongoing supplies and we are getting these out to you weekly. Please do not panic and stockpile we a good supply and the government are also guaranteeing to back up this supply should we need them. We have more soap ordered and will distribute this too.
3. **Symptoms** – Just to remember that the symptoms are a fever, you should feel hot to the touch and the cough is a new, dry and continuous, you shouldn't be able to talk whilst coughing. If you have any symptoms you need to go online and use the 111-symptom check list on <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>.
4. **Statutory Sick Pay** – If the advice from the symptom checker on NHS 111 confirms that you should self-isolate you will be entitled to SSP if you qualify for it. To qualify for it you need to have earned an average of £118 per week for the previous 8 weeks on average. SSP is £94.25 per week for your 7-14 days of isolation.

If a member of your family who you live is with has the symptoms and you are not able to work due to self-isolation you can still claim the SSP. The payment of self-isolation SSP will only be paid for the period you are unable to leave your home up to 14 days. If you don't qualify you can apply for other benefits including Universal Credit.

5. **Help and advice** – don't forget we have the advice line for your questions on COVID-19 on 01727 891004 Option 5 or [gunter.mulemans@abbotscare.com](mailto:gunter.mulemans@abbotscare.com) and check our website under the COVID-19

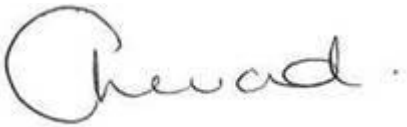
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Many thanks for your continued commitment to keep our Service Users safe, we are here to support you and to keep you safe whilst we work through this challenging time.

Best Wishes,



Camille Leavold  
Managing Director

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