



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Department of Health &
Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

To: All Local Authorities and Social Care
Providers

13 May 2021

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

I want to thank you for the incredible professionalism and compassion you and your teams are demonstrating every day in continuing to provide care and support throughout this pandemic. In the face of significant challenges, you have all worked so hard to keep those you care for safe, and your dedication throughout these months has been inspirational.

It is encouraging to see the number of Covid-19 cases decreasing as the vaccination programme rolls out and testing is allowing us quickly to address any remaining outbreaks. As a result of this progress we have been able to [open up visiting again](#), which is hugely welcome for all of us.

The positive developments of recent weeks are good news; however, we know this remains a pressured time for the health and care workforce. We are doing everything we can to help to alleviate the disruption caused by staff self-isolating or being absent to attend vaccinations. Our published [guidance on maintaining good health and wellbeing in the adult social care sector](#) contains links and signposts to dedicated support which we would encourage you to share with colleagues. I hope care colleagues have also been encouraged by the appointment of [Deborah Sturdy, our first ever Chief Nurse for Social Care](#). Her leadership is stimulating collaboration and innovation across services, professions and organisations as we seek to capitalise on the lessons of the pandemic.

It is with deep sadness that we continue to learn of the deaths of care workers from Covid-19 and I know that this will be incredibly difficult for those affected. 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 ensure our response remains as effective as possible, I would like to remind you to let us know if a care worker has died. We would be grateful if providers could follow the process outlined in the attachment where deaths have already occurred, and to also inform us if there are any further deaths. This process has been in place throughout the pandemic and we want to ensure that we continue to be properly notified of all deaths among social care workers from Covid-19. There is no legal duty on employers to submit this information to DHSC and informing us does not infer liability. Employers are encouraged to inform the family, friends or colleagues of the care worker who has died that they are submitting this information.

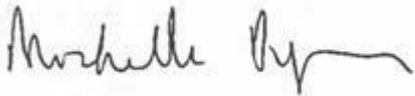
The process supports the [independent medical examiner scrutiny process](#), which has been set up to examine the deaths of all health and care staff who have sadly died of Covid-19. It also ensures that condolence letters can be sent to families of the deceased and that we can inform providers of the Government's [NHS and Social Care Coronavirus Life Assurance Scheme 2020](#). 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 and collecting information on the

deaths of care workers will help us to do this. Finally, it helps us to report the deaths of staff in social care more accurately.

Please note that this process is distinct from the life assurance scheme referred to above. 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 is another reporting requirement at an incredibly difficult moment for providers and we have designed this process to be as light-touch as possible. If you have any queries regarding this process, please send them to ASCcovidinform@dhsc.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Dyson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michelle Dyson

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 workers in the adult social care sector, regardless of role or employer, 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.