

## **COVID-19 - UK Government Help**

Dear Client,

With the increasing news and concerns regarding the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, The Payroll Group wants to ensure our clients that we are monitoring the developing situation and have resources in place to provide you continued service in any type of contingency situation. In order to ensure the health and safety of our employees many of them are now working remotely through digital channels as much as possible.

Furthermore, The Payroll Group team wants to update you so far regarding the UK Government help and business implications of COVID-19.

### **Sick Pay costs**

Statutory sick pay (SSP) will now be available for individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 or those unable to work because they are self-isolating in line with government advice. SME's will be able to reclaim SSP paid for sickness absence due to COVID-19. SSP is currently £94.25 each week rising to £95.85 from 6 April 2020.

- The refund will cover up to 2 weeks SSP.
- Employers with fewer than 250 employees will be eligible.
- Employers should maintain records of staff absences and payments of SSP (no GP fit note required).

It is important to note that employers may have to wait several months for reimbursement as the repayment mechanism has not been yet set up.

### **HMRC Coronavirus scam**

Fraudsters have been sending texts or emails containing a link that directs the recipient to a fake website bearing an [HMRC logo](#) with the promise of a tax refund from HMRC. The website encourages victims to share their name, address, phone number, mother's maiden name and bank card number.

**Taxpayers should refrain from giving out private information, replying to text messages, downloading attachments or clicking on links in email that arrive unexpectedly.**

Individuals should forward any suspicious emails claiming to be from HMRC to [phishing@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:phishing@hmrc.gov.uk) and to send suspicious texts to 60599.

***Disclaimer: The government is currently in the process of defining and agreeing the scheme's details, specifications and eligibility and therefore information is subject to change.***

Best Regards,  
The Payroll Group