

## **Coronavirus Pandemic and Requests for Doctor's Note (The Med3 'Fit Note')**

**Requests for certification of absence from the workplace may fall into five categories:**

### **1. Personally affected - isolating for seven days**

According to government regulations, patients can and must self-certify for the first seven days, if they are unfit for work. **They do not need to contact their GP for a note.**

### **2. Personally affected and remaining unwell for over seven days**

If patients remain unwell and unfit to work after seven days, the current advice is to visit <https://111.nhs.uk/isolation-note/> to obtain an **Isolation Note** after going through an online assessment tool. **They do not need to contact their GP.**

### **3. Household contact affected - isolating for fourteen days as per Government advice**

Again, patients should visit <https://111.nhs.uk/isolation-note/> to obtain an **Isolation Note** that they can then forward to their employer. **They do not need to contact their GP.**

### **4. At risk groups - following government advice**

GPs cannot and are not the gatekeeper of the statutory sick pay system. Employers are responsible for putting in place arrangements for home/remote working where this is possible. Where it is not, the employee may self-certify and return to work following the relevant absence which their employer may authorise as per government advice. Where they do become unwell during or after this time, point 1 and 2 applies.

**If a patient in a high-risk group has received a letter starting this week from the NHS advising isolation for 12 weeks, then a copy of that letter can be provided to their employer as evidence. They do not need to contact their GP.**

### **5. Those in full time education.**

There is no NHS requirement for GPs to issue certification to schools or colleges to confirm absence. These organisations must work with parents and students to ensure that any absence is appropriately recorded, obviating the need for a 'doctor's note'.

**They do not need to contact their GP.**

Our GPs have a responsibility to prioritise the assessment and management of the needs of their patients at this challenging time. We thank you for your support in helping us achieve this.