



## COVID-19 Group Risk Insurance

**As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis continues to dominate the headlines, we have looked at how this can impact group risk cover.**

Risk protection providers have confirmed that there is no change to existing critical illness, income protection and life assurance cover. Therefore existing levels of benefits remain in place. If you have queries regarding cover please contact your 44 Consultant.

### **'Actively at work'**

Members of your insurance policies who are absent due to being furloughed (but who have not received any medical advice to refrain from work) will be classed as 'actively at work'.

Those members who are absent due to self-isolation or because of employer instruction, but have not received medical advice to refrain from work will also be classed as 'actively at work'.

However members that are ill or have received medical advice to refrain from work will not be classed as 'actively at work'.

### **Furloughed employees and those with reduced pay**

Cover will remain in place for furloughed employees, those temporarily working reduced hours or those temporarily on a reduced salary. They will continue to be covered for their full benefit entitlement, providing their contract of employment is maintained and premiums are paid on this basis. If renewal data is requested during this time it is important that the data provided reflects the full salary for each individual, and not the reduced amount that might be paid.

### **Event limit / catastrophe cover**

Coronavirus has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation, therefore it is classed as a 'Catastrophe' by insurers. Many group life insurers apply an event limit with their cover, but it is important to remember that whilst many of us may be affected by COVID-19, a smaller proportion of the population will die from this virus, so the event limit in place should still be adequate. Please contact your usual 44 Consultant if you have any queries surrounding the event limit on your policy.

### **Members stranded overseas**

For those members stranded overseas there are varying stances from insurers therefore please discuss this with your 44 Consultant.

### **NHS volunteering for furloughed employees**

General consensus from insurers is that life assurance and critical illness cover would not be impacted by volunteering for the NHS during this time but income protection cover may be affected.

Importantly income protection claimants should definitely not volunteer as this could put at risk the ongoing payment of their claim. We would recommend that employers instruct employees that if they want to volunteer, that they should notify their employer of their intention, so that any consequential impact on benefits can be checked with the insurer. Please discuss with your 44 Consultant.

*If you have any queries on any of your risk policies please contact your usual 44 Consultant or email [admin@44benefits.co.uk](mailto:admin@44benefits.co.uk)*

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