

Dear Colleagues,

Test and trace support grants available for low income residents who cannot work

We all have a duty to help keep the country safe from further cases of COVID-19, but for many people having to self-isolate means they cannot go to work.

Grants are now available for some residents who have been told to self-isolate but are unable to work from home.

The £500 one-off payments will be made to residents who:

- have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace either because they've tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive;
- are employed or self-employed;
- are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result; and
- are currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit.

Anyone who is told to self-isolate who meets these criteria can claim the lump sum payment online. Visit www.ashford.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment and fill out the online form.

They will need to leave their name, address, phone number and National Insurance number, and provide the following to complete the form:

- a notification from NHS Test and Trace asking them to self-isolate (this will include a Unique ID number);
- a bank statement; and
- proof of employment, or, if they are self-employed, evidence of self-assessment returns, trading income and proof that their business delivers services which cannot be undertaken without social contact.

Anyone who is unable to register online can call 01233 331111. They will be able to leave their details with a customer service advisor who can pass these on to the processing team to contact them.

Anyone receiving the payment is legally required to complete the self-isolation period.

Gerry Clarkson CBE, BA (Hons)

Leader - Ashford Borough Council

Distribution: All Members of the Parish or Town Council, and representatives of the Community Forums (Please do not circulate beyond the above recipients).