

## Guidance

### 'MAIN' TEST AND TRACE SUPPORT PAYMENTS

The 'main' Test and Trace Support Payment is for people who live in England and:

- have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app because they have tested positive for COVID-19;

**or**

- have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive, and are not fully vaccinated;

**and**

- have responded to message from NHS Test and Trace and have provided any legally required information, such as details of their close contacts;

- are employed or self-employed;

- are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result of self-isolating; **and**

- are currently receiving, or are the partner in the same household as someone who is receiving, at least one of the following benefits:

- o Universal Credit

- o Working Tax Credit

- o income-based Employment and Support Allowance

- o income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

- o Income Support

- o Housing Benefit

- o Pension Credit

A parent or guardian of a young person who is required to self-isolate may be eligible for a 'main' payment if they live in England and meet the following criteria (even if they are fully vaccinated):

- they are the parent or guardian of a young person in the same household who is self-isolating and need to take time off work to care for them;

- they are unable to work from home and will lose income;

- the young person has:

- o tested positive for COVID-19 and is aged 15 or under, or aged 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan;

- o been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 (by NHS Test and Trace, their education or care setting or the NHS COVID-19 app), is aged 18-25, is not fully vaccinated **and** has an EHC Plan;

**or**

- the young person normally attends an education or care setting; and

- the parent or guardian meets all the other criteria for a 'main' payment.

## DISCRETIONARY TEST AND TRACE SUPPORT PAYMENTS

Discretionary Test and Trace Support Payments are for people who live in England and:

- have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app because they have tested positive for COVID-19;

**or**

- have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive, and are not fully vaccinated;

**and**

- have responded to a message from NHS Test and Trace and have provided any legally required information, such as details of their close contacts;
- are employed or self-employed;
- are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result of self-isolating;
- are **not** currently receiving, and are **not** the partner in the same household as someone who is receiving, at least one of:
  - o Universal Credit
  - o Working Tax Credit
  - o income-based Employment and Support Allowance
  - o income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
  - o Income Support
  - o Housing Benefit
  - o Pension Credit

**and**

- are on a low-income, as defined by their local authority (for Cambridge City Council, this is defined as having less than £6,000 capital and gross income of less than £28,000 per year (gross) if you are a single person or a couple without children, or £37,400 (gross) if you are a couple with children or a lone parent), and will face hardship as a result of self-isolating.

A parent or guardian of a young person who is required to self-isolate may be eligible for a discretionary payment if they live in England and meet the following criteria (even if they are fully vaccinated):

- they are the parent or guardian of a young person in the same household who is self-isolating and need to take time off work to care for them;
- they are unable to work from home and will lose income;
- the young person has:
  - o tested positive for COVID-19 and is aged 15 or under, or aged 25 or under with an EHC Plan;
  - o been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 (by NHS Test and Trace, their education or care setting or the NHS COVID-19 app), is aged 18-25, is not fully vaccinated **and** has an EHC Plan;

**or**

- the young person normally attends an education or care setting; and
- the parent or guardian meets all the other criteria for a discretionary payment.

## **ELIGIBILITY: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **How do we define ‘unable to work from home’?**

‘Unable to work from home’ means that an applicant has a job that cannot be carried out from home and therefore cannot work from home while self-isolating.

### **How do we define an ‘education or care setting’ for applications from parents/guardians?**

An education or childcare setting is somewhere that is registered with the local authority where the child would spend most of the weekday during term-time. Schools, nurseries and care settings for 16-25 year-olds with additional support needs are included. Things that are not covered include unregistered childcare providers, informal childcare arrangements, home-schooling and after-school/weekend/holiday activities (e.g. Scouts/Guides, sports clubs, summer camps). This is not an exhaustive list.

### **Are fully vaccinated adults still eligible for the scheme?**

As of 16 August 2021, fully vaccinated adults are no longer required to self-isolate if identified as a contact by NHS Test and Trace. This means they are no longer eligible for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme.

Fully vaccinated adults who test positive are still required to self-isolate. They are still eligible for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme.

### **Why are most parents and guardians no longer eligible?**

As of 16 August 2021, people under 18 are no longer required to self-isolate if identified as a contact by NHS Test and Trace. This means that their parent/guardian will no longer need to care for them while they self-isolate, as they can continue to leave home to attend school, college etc.

Some people aged 18-25 with EHC Plan (EHC) will still be required to self-isolate if they are not fully vaccinated. Their parents/guardians may retain eligibility for TTSP if they still need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate.

### **Can Local Authorities accept an application made after someone has finished self-isolating?**

Eligible individuals can make a claim up to six weeks (42 days) after their first day of self-isolation. Local authorities should not accept applications after this point: for example, if someone started their self-isolation period on 1 September 2021, the last day on which they could make a claim would be 13 October 2021.

### **Can Local Authorities accept a third-party application?**

Another individual can apply on behalf of the intended recipient; however, the £500 should be paid into a bank account in the name of the person for whom the application is being made. For example, if a son applied on behalf of their mother, the payment would be made into the mother’s bank account.

### **Can Local Authorities pay an applicant who is self-isolating with COVID-19 symptoms, but who has not tested positive or been identified as a contact?**

The Test and Trace Support Payment scheme is for people who are required to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or have been advised to self-isolate by the NHS COVID-19 app, either because they have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive and are not fully vaccinated. It does **not** cover people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 symptoms but who have not tested positive or been identified as a contact. Applicants should not be paid who are in this position. In some rare instances, people may have been told to self-isolate while they were in hospital – even if they have not tested positive or been identified as a contact. These may be paid on discretion.