

Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme March 2021 update

Parents and guardians of children who are required to self – isolate.

The Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme is being extended to parents and guardians who are not legally required to self- isolate, but who need to take time off work to look after a child or young person who is self-isolating.

Applicants will need to satisfy the existing eligibility criteria for the main or discretionary scheme to receive the payment.

Eligibility

From 8 March 2021, parents or guardians who are not legally required to self-isolate can apply for a Test and Trace Support Payment or discretionary payment if they need to take time off work to care for a child or young person who is.

Applicants must meet all the criteria below:

- they are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate. This is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period.
- they are employed or self-employed.
- they cannot work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result.
- they meet all the other means-tested eligibility criteria for a Test and Trace

Support Payment or locally determined criteria for a discretionary payment.

- their child or young person:

is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC)) and normally attends an education or childcare setting.

has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Applications

The child or young person must have been told to self-isolate on or after **8 March 2021**. Applications can be backdated to this point and the parent or guardian will be eligible for the payment if they meet all the existing eligibility criteria (for the main scheme or the discretionary scheme)

Chief Executive Officer: Mrs L Whitehouse

Claims made by parents and guardians can be made up to six weeks (42 days) after the child or young person's first day of self-isolation. For example, if a child or young person was told to self-isolate on 8 March, their parent or guardian must apply by 19 April.

Supporting Evidence about the child or young person

Applicants will need to provide either:

- the child's eight-digit NHS Test and Trace ID number. This is for parents and guardians of children or young people who have received a notification directly from NHS Test and Trace telling them to self-isolate.

OR

- a communication from the child or young person's education or childcare setting confirming that they have to self-isolate. This is for parents and guardians of children or young people who have been told to self-isolate by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive.

OR

- a screenshot of a young person's NHS COVID-19 App notification telling them to self-isolate

AND

- For parents or guardians of young people **aged 16-25** who have additional support needs and who have been notified to self-isolate by the NHS COVID-19 App, evidence that the young person has an Education, Health and Care Plan.

The evidence provided in relation to the child will be verified with either the education or childcare setting and / or NHS before an award is made.

***** Please note that the DHSC has just issued this guidance and have given councils until the 14th April to get application forms and processes in place. The council's website will be updated with the latest information.

Main and Discretionary Test and Trace Support Scheme changes

The time allowed for applications to be made has increased from 28 days to 42 days with immediate effect.

Discretionary Scheme

Due to an increase in budget allocation from the Government, the Discretionary Scheme has been revised so that help is available to more applicants. The changes are:

- An increase to the income level to £25k per year
- An increase to the savings limit to 6k