

## **Test & Trace Support Payment Scheme**

Dear Parents & Guardians,

This communication is intended to clarify the key facts about the Test & Trace Support Payment Scheme.

The Test & Trace Support Payment is only payable if you have been **directly asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace**. Unfortunately, where your children have been sent home from school due to a positive coronavirus case in their bubble or a partial or full school closure, you are **not** able to claim this funding.

If the impact of your children being sent home and you having to look after them has placed you in financial hardship, you may still be eligible for other support schemes, including the [Kent Support & Assistance Service](#).

If you have been directly asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace on or after 28 September 2020 and you are on a low income, unable to work from home, income reduced as a result, and in receipt of a qualifying benefit (Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit, Pension Credit), you may be entitled to a payment of £500 under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme.

If you are a Kent resident, this scheme is administered by your **District Council**. If you are a Medway, Bexley or Bromley resident, you will need to apply to Medway Council, London Borough of Bexley or London Borough of Bromley respectively. Contact details below. The scheme runs until 31 January 2021.

If the NHS COVID-19 app notifies you to self-isolate because you've been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus but you have **not** been contacted by NHS Test and Trace, you are **not** currently eligible. However, if you then test positive for coronavirus, even if you booked and receive your test result through the app, you will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and from that point you can apply for the scheme if you are eligible as set out above.

If you are not in receipt of a qualifying benefit but you are on a low income and are facing financial hardship as a result of not being able to work while you're self-isolating, you may be eligible for a **discretionary payment**, also administered by your District Council.

If you are eligible for either the Test and Trace Support Payment or the discretionary payment, this will be on top of and will not affect any benefits and Statutory Sick Pay that you currently receive.

For more information and to apply, please see your Local Authority webpages:

[Ashford Borough Council](#)

[Canterbury City Council](#)

[Dartford Borough Council](#)

[Dover District Council](#)

[Folkestone and Hythe District Council](#)

[Gravesham Borough Council](#)

[London Borough of Bexley](#)

[London Borough of Bromley](#)

[Maidstone Borough Council](#)

[Medway Council](#)

[Sevenoaks Borough Council](#)

[Swale Borough Council](#)

[Thanet District Council](#)

[Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council](#)

[Tunbridge Wells Borough Council](#)

**For more information on the wider national scheme, please visit:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support/claiming-financial-support-under-the-test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme>