

September 2020

Dear Landlord/occupier,

**RE: Staying safe at home in Shared Accommodation Setting**

We want to thank you for your hard work with complying with Government guidance and make sure you feel supported and aware of the steps to take should someone within the accommodation become unwell.

We recognise that in some accommodation, there will be a number of people living together as “households” (using shared communal facilities such as kitchens and bathrooms/lounge areas). We recommend that the number of people in each “household” who share communal facilities is kept as small as possible, and that they maintain social distancing from individuals in other “households”, and don’t mix. This will significantly reduce risk to others and prevent virus transmission if somebody in the accommodation does become unwell with COVID-19.

The main symptoms to look for, should someone become unwell are any one of the below:

* **high temperature**–feeling hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
* **new, continuous cough**–coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
* **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste**– cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

**Steps to take if you or a member of the household becomes symptomatic:**

* If someone is housed in shared accommodation and is the first in the household to have symptoms of coronavirus, then they must self-isolate for 10 days and book a test (ensure they are tested within 5 days of the onset of symptoms) by following <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or dialling 119.
* You will either be able to book a drive through test or order a home testing kit.
* Everyone else in the household must self-isolate for 14 days, following the onset of the first person’s initial symptoms.
* Negative result:
* If the test comes back negative, the first symptomatic person can stop self-isolating (as long as they are well and have not had a high temperature for at least 48 hours), as can the remainder of the household (if they are well).
* Positive result:
* If the test is positive, you will be required to; continue to self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days, or, if symptoms persist - until well and until you have not had a high temperature for at least 48 hours. Household contacts need to isolate for 14 days.
* If the test is positive, you will be requested to share your close contacts with the NHS Test and trace service.
* If any close contact of a positive case becomes symptomatic, they should isolate and order a test and either:
	+ - Isolate for 10 days (following a positive test result)
		- Isolate for 14 days (following a negative test result, ***because they are a close contact of a confirmed case***)
* People living within a household are most likely to become infected. However, it is still important to try to stay away from symptomatic individuals/those with a positive result, and follow [the staying at home guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection).
* Staying at home following the first person in the household developing symptoms for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.
* Inconclusive test result:
	+ If the test is void, borderline or inconclusive, please book another test as soon as possible, within 5 days from the initial onset of symptoms.
	+ If you have not been able to book a test in time, you must self-isolate for at least 10 days from when your symptoms started. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must self-isolate for 14 days.
	+ If you had a test but have not had any symptoms, you do not need to self-isolate while you wait to get another test. People you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, do not need to self-isolate.

**Self-isolation**

* From 28th September, anyone in England with a positive test result, or who has been contacted by NHS Test and Trace who doesn’t self-isolate, could be fined up to £10,000 (starting at £1,000)
* People on low incomes who need to self-isolate and are unable to work from home will benefit from a new £500 Test and Trace support payment scheme which should be in place by October 12, 2020 (people will be able to claim for any self-isolation from 28th September 2020)

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-legal-duty-to-self-isolate-comes-into-force-today

**How to avoid spreading coronavirus**

Please can we ask for your continued support in following these messages:

* **HANDS** - Wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds.
* **FACE** - Wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
* **SPACE** - Stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors).
	+ No more than 6 people (including children) can meet inside (in homes or other settings) or outside, with 2 metres distance kept between people in different households.
	+ Limit visitors to your room, unless they are someone from your household. If they are from outside of your household and from another household, be sure to practice social distancing.
	+ Please take care if you do go out to meet others, maintaining social distancing and reducing the number of contacts you have outside of your household as much as possible.

**Steps for landlords following a symptomatic resident:**

* The symptomatic person should remain in their room as much as possible and remain at least two metres from other household members, ideally with a window open for ventilation.
* If it is not possible to isolate the person then they should be moved to an area which is at least two metres away from other people.
* The landlord should remain at least two metres from the occupier and other residents in the household. If the landlord needs to touch the resident in order to assist them, the landlord should wash their hands, wear an apron, gloves and fluid resistant surgical mask.
* There is no need to phone 111 at this point unless the person is unwell enough to require medical attention.

**Cleaning when a symptomatic person has been in the building:**

* Public areas where a symptomatic person has passed through but not spent significant time, such as corridors can be cleaned as normal.
* Cleaning needs to focus on contact points such as door handles, rails, taps and work surfaces that the symptomatic person has been in contact with should be cleaned with a detergent followed by disinfectant with chlorine (diluted but to no less than 1,000 ppm chlorine) – example of disinfectants include Milton, Chlorclean or Tritan. Gloves and an apron should be used for cleaning.
* Waste should be put in plastic bag and tied when full, then placed in a second bag and tied. This should ideally be kept in a secure place for 72 hours before being put in with normal waste.
* Laundry should be washed as per the manufacturer’s instructions on the warmest setting and dried thoroughly.

If you have any queries or require any support at your setting following a resident becoming ill, please email DPHadmin@warwickshire,gov.uk

We trust that you will continue to look after your own safety at this time, as well as that of others, please look out or changes to all of the above which are available <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

 Yours faithfully,

Signed: Shade Agboola (Director of Public Health, Warwickshire County Council)



To keep up to date with government guidance please visit <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>