

## Financial assistance for Parents and guardians of children who are required to self – isolate

Recent changes have been made to support parents with the financial implication of looking after children at home if they 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.

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 and they 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.

For more information, please click [HERE](#).