

# FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PRESS RELEASE

October 12, 2020

### **Council launches Test and Trace support payment scheme**

Fenland residents who face financial hardship while self-isolating due to coronavirus can now apply to Fenland District Council for a £500 support payment.

People who test positive for COVID-19, or those identified by NHS Test and Trace as a contact of someone with the virus, are now required by law to self-isolate.

To help support and enforce the legislation, the Government announced a new Test and Trace Support Payment for people on lower incomes who cannot work from home while self-isolating and have lost income as a result.

Fenland District Council is administering the £500 lump sum payments locally and has now launched an online application form. Residents can check if they are eligible and apply at: [www.fenland.gov.uk/testandtracepayment](http://www.fenland.gov.uk/testandtracepayment)

Cllr Chris Boden, Fenland District Council Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, said: "While our area has a low number of cases compared to other parts of the UK, coronavirus is still a threat, particularly to vulnerable people, so it's vital we all continue to do our bit to reduce the spread and to protect our vulnerable friends, families and communities.

"Self-isolating when required to do as per Government guidance is a pivotal part of controlling the spread of the virus but we know this can cause difficulties for those who face financial hardship as a result of not being able to work.

"These support payments will help ensure that no-one is unfairly disadvantaged as a result of staying at home and doing the right thing."

To be eligible for the Test and Trace Support Payment, residents must:

- Have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, either because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive
- Be employed or self-employed
- Be unable to work from home and will lose income as a result
- Be currently receiving one of the following benefits: Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit.

An NHS Test and Trace ID number, bank statement, proof of receipt of one of the qualifying benefits and proof of employment or self-assessment returns will need to be provided when applying. Payments will be made within three working days and can be backdated to September 28.

The Council has also launched a discretionary scheme for residents required to self-isolate but who do not fulfil all the requirements of the Test and Trace Payment Scheme.

Discretionary lump sum payments of £500 can be made to individuals who:

- Have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, either because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive
- Are employed or self-employed
- Are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result
- Are not currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit
- Are on low incomes and will face financial hardship as a result of not being able to work while they are self-isolating

The Test and Trace Support Payments and discretionary payments are available until January 31, 2021.

For more information visit: [www.fenland.gov.uk/testandtracepayment](http://www.fenland.gov.uk/testandtracepayment) or call the Council's Customer Contact Centre on 01354 654321.

**ENDS**

**For more information contact Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226**