



Test and Trace Isolation Payment for parents or guardians who are looking after children who are required to self-isolate

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 of £500 if they need to take time off work to care for a child or young person who is required to self-isolate.

Applicants must meet all the eligibility criteria below to claim a Main scheme Test and Trace Payment:

- 1) 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.
- 2) they are employed or self-employed.
- 3) they cannot work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result. (Before submitting a claim, parents should check with their employer as to whether they will lose money whilst looking after their child who has to self-isolate, as any overpaid payment will be expected to be paid back).
- 4) they are in receipt of 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. Support Payment or locally determined criteria for a discretionary payment.
- 5) 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.

Parents/guardian who meet point 1- 3 but are not in receipt of a benefit listed in point 4 can apply for a **discretionary scheme** payment using the same application form.

Backdating

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 other eligibility criteria (for the main scheme or the discretionary scheme).

Applications from members of the same household

Parents and guardians who **are not** legally required to self-isolate can make one application per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period. People in the same household who are applying because **they are** legally required to self-isolate can make an individual application to receive the payment. Each person will need to meet the eligibility criteria, as set out above.

Applications made after a child's/young person's period of self-isolation has ended

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.
Local authorities will not accept retrospective applications after the 42-day cut-off.

Applications that overlap with another period of self-isolation

Parent or guardians can claim more than once, provided their child or young person's self-isolation periods do not overlap. This applies irrespective of whether the parent or guardian is claiming twice for the same child, or for two different children.

For example, in a household with two children (Child A and Child B), the parents or guardians can claim twice (either twice from the same parent or one claim per parent) if Child A's first day of self-isolation is on 8 March and Child B's first day of self-isolation is on 21 March.

This is because Child B's first day of self-isolation is after Child A's ten-day self-isolation period. However, if Child B's first day of self-isolation is 15 March, the two children's self-isolation periods overlap; their household can only make a single claim.

Application process

- The application will be available from Friday 26th March on the council's website <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/page/26134/coronavirus-covid-19>
- Applications from parents or guardians will be checked with their child or young person's education or care setting to ensure that the child has been advised to self-isolate and the details that are self-declared on the application form about the child, is accurate.
- Evidence will be needed to support the claim, this is outlined on the website and on the form and includes evidence about the child or young person.

Applicants will need to provide evidence of the child's self-isolation 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 evidence that the young person has an Education, Health and Care Plan. This is 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.

Local authorities cannot not accept applications without at least one of the three pieces of supporting evidence listed above.