



TRAFFORD COUNCIL

David Eckersley
Direct Payment Team Co-ordinator

Trafford Council
2nd Floor Sale Waterside House
Sale Waterside
M33 7ZF
Email DirectPayments@trafford.gov.uk
Telephone 0161 912 2701
www.trafford.gov.uk

Addressee's Name
Building Number & Street Name
Locality Name, If Required
POST TOWN (ALL CAPS)
POSTCODE (ALL CAPS)

22.04.2020

Direct payment Covid-19 Update

Dear Direct Payment Recipients,

Since the last letter was issued there have been many developments as regards how the Government, NHS and Social Services are working together to tackle the presenting Covid-19 pandemic. This letter we will go into more detail about these developments, recognising that some of them may not be relevant to your situation if you do not employ your own members of staff.

An electronic version of this letter will be sent to our clients who have provided Trafford Direct Payment Team with an email address. This is our preferred method of communication due to the speed of delivery, recent Government information changing weekly, and the fact that any links to the websites will be "live". If we do not have an email address for you, you can update us by emailing the Direct Payment Team on directpayments@trafford.gov.uk however we fully understand that not all of our clients have access to the internet.

How to Use Direct Payment Funding

Further to the information sent in the previous letter, Trafford Council has agreed to continue to provide our clients Direct Payment funding fully, which follows the same response as most other councils, however some have made the decision to temporarily suspend clients funding if services are not being used. Trafford Council's decision to continue to pay funding should allow clients to continue to pay any Day Service/Agency retainer rates and pay any Personal Assistants that are unable to work due to the Government quarantine restrictions. Trafford Council has agreed to allow such Personal Assistants to continue to be paid 80% of their normal weekly pay to retain their services, rather than end the funding which would result in the employer (you) applying for Furlough Pay Via the HMRC (80% of the P.A.'s weekly pay).

New information has recently been released by The Government to help assist clients using Direct Payment funding to meet their other family members support needs. The information encompasses new guidance on Personal Protection Equipment, Covid-19 Testing for Agencies, Personal Assistants and affected people in the "workplace".

Further information can be found via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-people-receiving-direct-payments>

If you employ Personal Assistants you can also request that they are tested for the virus by following the guidance on the Think Local Act Personal (TLAP) website and in further details in the contents of this letter:

<https://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/covid-19/>

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements due to a possible or confirmed COVID-19 case within the work place?

Personal Assistants will now need to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to protect yourself and themselves especially if they are providing care to clients and individuals who are known to be possible or confirmed COVID-19 cases, PPE recommendations are specified. This is because they may not be able to observe 'social distancing' of two metres or more and they may need to be close to you when providing personal care. Furthermore for delivery of care to any individual meeting criteria for shielding (vulnerable groups) or where anyone in the household meets criteria for shielding, as a minimum, single use disposable plastic aprons, surgical mask and gloves must be worn for the protection of the client.

Public Health England has also issued separate guidance on shielding and protecting people who are at very high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 because of an underlying medical condition. It sets out which people are in this clinically extremely vulnerable group and is intended for situations where people are living in their own homes, including people with additional support. People in this group are advised to follow shielding measures rigorously in order to keep themselves safe.

NHS England has written to people who fall within this group of those at highest risk of severe illness if they catch COVID-19 because they have an underlying disease or health condition, giving advice on how to protect themselves and access the care and treatment they need.

Further information and guidance can be found on the Government Website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

We therefore strongly recommend that you followed the National Guidance via the links above as the wearing of PPE will also protect you and your PA from transmitting the virus if either of you come into contact with it.

Agencies providing care and support to you will also be adhering to the same guidance, we recommend you discussing their use of PPE with them.

How can I get PPE If I employ a Personal Assistant, in the case of an Emergency when someone is presenting with Coronavirus symptoms within the work place?

- 1) We would in the first instance recommend you try to secure sufficient stock from your usual equipment supplier.
- 2) If you still are unable to secure sufficient stock, attempt to procure a supply from your local Pharmacy or GP practice.
- 3) If you have less than 4 days' worth of PPE stocks left and cannot secure its replenishment by following the first two steps, then you can request emergency supplies from our team whilst your normal stockist delivers your standard equipment.

Picking up of the emergency stock can be arranged 1.00pm to 4.00pm Monday to Friday on a case by case basis

You can get in touch with our team **on 0161 912 2701 Monday to Friday 10.00am to 3.00pm** to order the emergency PPE stock. **Outside of these hours please call 0161 912 1111** for any PPE requirements. Please can you be ready to provide the team with information on your remaining length of existing PPE supplies and an itemised list of what PPE you require.

**Please be aware that the available stock is only for emergencies and cannot be guaranteed to be ready for pick up from our Sale Waterside Office on the same day the request is submitted and therefore it is vital that you source adequate stock now via the standard GP/Pharmacy route than await for an emergency situation to arise. The issuing of the stock will also be monitored closely due to the level of emergency stock available*.*

How do I request a test for my Personal Assistants or symptomatic people in the household/workplace?

- 1) Please use the address link to the Think Local Act Personal (TLAP) website and follow their instructions.

<https://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/covid-19/>

- 2) A slide presentation will take you through the process. Initially you will be asked to confirm the potential symptoms as per NHS guidance.
- 3) You will then be guided to complete "Invitation to register for coronavirus testing- personal care assistants (PAs)".

https://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/_assets/Resources/COVID19/Covid-19-invitation-for-testing.docx

This document will take you through the process and estimated time scales of completing an online form, booking your P.A./people in the household in to a testing time slot, the details of how and where the test will be performed (held in a car park at Manchester Airport), then when the people tested should get the results back.

- 4) Please be aware that the accuracy of the test result is most successful if completed within 1-3 days of the person becoming symptomatic, the test can be completed up to 5 days after symptoms are present.

Many thanks for your continued support through this difficult time.

David Eckersley (Broker Team Co-ordinator)

Jayne Skelhorn (Senior Audit Officer)