

Subject: Urgent Communication - Self-isolating payments

Dear friends,

We hope this email finds you well in these difficult times and that you managed to have an enjoyable break over the festive period. We will be contacting you next week with our usual pre-foodbank call email, however we felt this information wouldn't wait until next week.

Grants to help residents self-isolate

Essex County Council has secured funding to provide support to residents who are asked to self-isolate. We've heard that some people are worried about self-isolating because they'll lose income. Given the rapid rise in Covid-19 cases in Essex it is vitally important that everybody required to self-isolate does so. To help ensure they can we are distributing an extra £3 million to city, borough and district councils across Essex so they can re-open or expand their discretionary support payments for people who do not qualify for the Government Test and Trace support payment. Residents should apply to their borough, city or district council and the relevant links are listed at <https://www.essex.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment>.

It would be helpful if you would pass on this information to your service users and contacts on your social media and websites. We wanted to make this as easy as possible for you, so please find attached graphics which have been created to use on the various social media sites; they all look the same but are **sized** to work on the various different sites.

In case you might find it helpful, we put together some messaging for your use which includes a link to the ECC's website. However if you serve only a specific area you might like to update this link with the relevant local council link (this can be found from the ECC link).

Social Media messaging:

1. If you have been asked to self-isolate because you or someone in your household has tested positive for COVID it is really important you do so to stop the spread. You can apply to your local council for a £500 one-off support payment so you have income if you are unable to work from home. Contact your local council: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment> #staysafeEssex
2. You can **apply for** financial support if you need to self-isolate and cannot work from home. We have provided an extra £3 million to borough, city and district councils across Essex to provide one-off support payments of £500 to people who aren't eligible for the Government's Test and Trace support payment. To apply for either, contact your local council: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment> #staysafeEssex

3. If you need to self-isolate you can apply for a £500 support payment to help you stay home. <https://www.essex.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment> #staysafeEssex

4. We've heard that some people are worried about self-isolating because they'll lose income. Don't worry. You can **apply for** financial support if you need to self-isolate and cannot work from home. We have provided an extra £3 million to borough, city and district councils across Essex to provide one-off support payments of £500 to people who aren't eligible for the Government's Test and Trace support payment. To apply for either, contact your local council: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment> #staysafeEssex

E-letter suggested content

If you've tested positive or been asked to self-isolate it is really important that you stay home to stop the spread of Covid 19. Essex County Council has secured an extra £3m from Government covid funds to provide financial support to residents who need to self-isolate. The funds have been given to borough, city and district councils to provide one off £500 support payments to people unable to work and who do not qualify for the Government's Test and Trace support payments. To apply for either the Government or discretionary grant see <https://www.essex.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment>

[A media release](#) about this **was** published today on [essex.gov.uk](https://www.essex.gov.uk) and the local councils have also been provided template content to promote this through their channels.

Thank you for your help in getting this information circulated, it is much appreciated.

Kate and Louise

Essex Partners Support Team