

## **Test and Trace Discretionary Support Payment**

In order to be considered for a Discretionary Payment a claimant must be on a low income, facing financial hardship and meet all the following criteria:

- a resident within the LA area
- have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace either because they've 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;
- have not received a payment under the Scheme for their current period of self-isolation.

Additionally in considering whether a Discretionary Support Payment should be made, the claimant must also meet the following criteria:

- They are not currently in receipt of Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, Employment and Support Allowance (Income Based), Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based), Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit
- Will face severe demonstrable financial hardship, as a direct result of not being able to work whilst self-isolating and unable to pay essential bills .
- Will usually have maximum earnings of no more than £250 gross per week (with a lower limit of £80 and would normally work 16 hours a week).  
(\*Please note that the full household expenditure will be taken into account when assessing any applications).
- Have savings below £1,000
- The discretionary scheme is not open to University students , those in Higher Education together with non dependants in a household that don't have a rent/mortgage liability/council tax liability.
- Applicants who usually have no recourse to public funds may be considered, providing they meet all of the above discretionary criteria.

Please be aware that there is limited funding for this scheme and applications will be dealt with on a first come basis. Accordingly the LA reserve the right to alter or amend the scheme dependent upon demand and to withdraw the discretionary scheme when the funding for the discretionary scheme is exhausted.