

Important Information for Tenants



Issue 7 12th June 2020

Throughout the Coronavirus Crisis, Gatesfield will periodically issue these information sheets to bring you the latest advice from the Government and other authoritative sources such as the World Health Organization.

The Government has made a number of announcements recently that affect what you are now allowed to do. This sheet describes the most important. Remember that South Lakeland has one of the highest Covid-19 infection rates in the whole country, so it is vital to continue to follow the Government's Guidance.

What can I do that I couldn't do before (in England)?

From 13 June, you will be able to do the following:

- Form a 'support bubble' with one other household if you live alone or are a single parent with dependent children - in other words, you are in a household where there is only one adult. All those in a support bubble will be able to act as if they live in the same household - meaning they can spend time together inside each other's homes and do not need to stay 2 metres apart. Support bubbles should be exclusive - meaning you should not switch the household you are in a bubble with or connect with multiple households.
- Attend your place of worship for the purposes of individual prayer (where they choose to open).

From 15 June:

- You will have to wear a face covering on public transport.
- More shops and some outdoor attractions will open - including drive-in cinemas, zoos, and safari parks.
- Year 10 and 12 pupils in secondary schools and colleges will begin to receive some face to face support.

You will still be able to meet outdoors with groups of up to six people from different households, provided social distancing is observed and you stay 2 metres (6 feet) away from anyone outside your household or support bubble.

As before, you cannot:

- visit friends and family inside their homes (unless you are in a support bubble from 13 June) or for other limited circumstances set out in law
- stay away from your home or your support bubble household overnight - including holidays - except for in a limited set of circumstances, such as for work purposes
- exercise in an indoor sports court, gym or leisure centre, or go swimming in a public pool.
- use an outdoor gym or playground
- gather outdoors in a group of more than six (unless exclusively with members of your own household or support bubble).

'Support Bubbles'

More information about support bubbles is overleaf. Think very carefully about whether you want to join a support bubble and, if so, with whom. It could be another a household that includes your relatives or friends or even another Gatesfield Tenant. It would be helpful (but it is not obligatory) if you can let a member of Gatesfield staff know with whom you have formed a bubble. You can also ask a member of Gatesfield staff if you have any questions about support bubbles.

The general advice for everyone over 70 remains to minimise contact with others as much as possible.

Making a support bubble with another household

In England, from 13 June if you live by yourself or are a single parent with dependent children – in other words, if there is only one adult in your home – you can expand your support network so that it includes one other household of any size. This is called making a ‘support bubble’ and means you are able to meet indoors or out, be less than 2 metres apart and stay overnight as you could if they were members of your own household. Once you are in a support bubble, you can think of yourself as in a single household. You should continue to adhere to social distancing guidelines in full with other households.

There are key principles for how you can form a support bubble safely:

- Support bubbles should be exclusive – you should not change who is in your bubble or have close contact with anyone else you do not live with. This is critical to keeping you, and your family and friends, safe.
- If you or someone in your support bubble is showing coronavirus symptoms, or otherwise self-isolating, everyone in your support bubble should stay home and self-isolate. If you or a member of your support bubble is contacted as part of the test and trace programme, the individual contacted must stay at home. If the individual becomes symptomatic, everyone in the support bubble must then isolate.

It is not yet possible for those who are not in a support bubble to start meeting inside other people’s homes – that remains against the law unless covered by any other limited circumstances as set out in the law.

This is really important to keep you and others in your support bubble safe by avoiding the risk of infection to those in your bubble. The risk of infection rises with the number of people in a bubble and the number of interactions you have with people you do not live with, so it’s important to take measures to try and protect against this. This means that support bubbles should be exclusive – you should only form a bubble with one household and they should only be in a bubble with you.

You must not gather indoors or stay overnight with anyone outside of this bubble and should not change your bubble. If you are in a single adult household, you may want to consider making a bubble with another smaller household where possible. Everyone in a support bubble should isolate when one member of the bubble becomes symptomatic or tests positive for coronavirus.

Who can form a support bubble

From 13 June, if you live in a single adult household – either you live alone or are a single parent living only with dependent children – you are allowed to form a support bubble. You can choose to do so with any other household. This should be used to help those most in need.

Physical contact with members of your support bubble

Support bubbles are a cautious step to help people who may be lonely and therefore at greatest risk of isolation. You do not need to stay more than 2 metres from people in your bubble, but good hand hygiene and other measures can help to keep you and the people you meet safe.

Support bubbles and isolation

If any member of your support bubble (from 13 June) – either someone in your own household or one that you have formed a bubble with – develops symptoms or tests positive for coronavirus you should follow advice on household isolation. If you share custody of your child, and you and your child’s other parent are both in separate bubbles, all households would need to isolate if someone becomes symptomatic in the group.

If you are clinically extremely vulnerable (shielding)

The Government cannot advise anyone who is shielding to form a household bubble at this stage. However, it recognises how hard it is for people who are shielding and is keeping this advice under close review. Those who are shielding are still advised to maintain strict social distancing and stay 2 metres apart from others – including those they live with.

If you are over 70 or have a higher risk of catching coronavirus (such as a frontline healthcare worker)

If you are over 70 or otherwise clinically vulnerable, you should continue to take particular care to minimise contact with others. You should bear this in mind when deciding to form a support bubble. If you are at a higher risk of exposure to those with coronavirus (for example, if someone in your house is a healthcare or care worker that interacts with patients that have coronavirus), you should take particular care when deciding whether to form a support bubble and who with.

Travelling to form a support bubble

There is no limit on how far you can travel in England to meet members of your support bubble but we recommend that you form a support bubble with someone who lives locally wherever possible. You cannot form a bubble with someone who lives in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.