

PeoplePlus Direct Payments-Covid19 response for people we support.

You will be aware of the increasing prevalence of Covid19 (commonly known as Corona Virus) We want to provide information regarding what is required in order to prepare.

Covid19 is a virus and a member of the coronavirus family that has never been encountered before. Those who have fallen ill are reported to have coughs, fever and breathing difficulties, and it can lead to pneumonia. As this is viral pneumonia, antibiotics will not work, and neither will the antiviral drugs currently used against flu.

Clearly, such an illness is a cause for concern within social care, especially with the care of the very young, those with long term conditions and elderly. Therefore, we want to ensure that you are taking steps to prepare for a potential outbreak.

This information is designed to help you prepare in advance rather than cause any worry about what may happen. The Government and NHS are well prepared to deal with the virus but there are things we can all do to help.

The best way to prevent Coronavirus infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus. You and your personal assistant should practice every day preventative actions, including:

- **Staying home when you are sick or when instructed by the government to do so.**
(see government links below for most up to date guidance)
- Washing your hands often with soap and water. Alcohol-based hand sanitisers are good alternatives.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick and maintain personal space.
- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the bin
- Personal assistants should use personal protective equipment (such as gloves) to minimise risk

You should review your contingency plan for what to do if your personal assistant calls in sick or has to self-isolate as you may be required to source alternative support. A contingency planning template is available on our website at <https://peopleplus.co.uk/communities/direct-payment-support-services>

If your contingency arrangements have broken down you should call your council emergency duty team. You will find their number on your local council website.

If you, your family or any of your personal assistants have any symptoms of Covid19, or believe that you have contacted Covid19, then you should follow the most up to date advice issued by NHS. The easiest way to access this information is clicking the NHS link below or by typing it into your internet browser.

ESSENTIAL LINKS:

Government guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS guidance - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

NHS online 111 tool - <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>

ACAS Employment advice - <https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>

HMRC fact sheet -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873676/Covid-19_fact_sheet_18_March.pdf