

## **Shared accommodation – Explanation of Government during national lockdown**

The government guidance (see [this link](#)) states that it is against the law to meet socially with family or friends, unless they are part of the household or support bubble – what does that mean for those who do not live with their partners?

We have explained this below but also see the bullet point summary towards the end of this note.

If the partner lives alone, they could form a support bubble, but it is not as straight forward as that.

If you have employees who live in shared accommodation, everyone in that accommodation forms a household for lockdown purposes – they do not “live alone”, they live with others. It will not be a single household if the building is configured in a similar fashion to a block of flats, with only a common entrance/exit, but if there is a shared kitchen and/or a bathroom and/or a lounge they form a single household.

For the purposes of this guidance, it is an adult living alone who can form a support bubble with one other household – those living in a shared household as above, do not qualify as an adult living alone.

It is possible that one external single person could interact with the household but not multiple ones – all the occupants cannot form their own “support bubbles” with their partners because a support bubble must not be with a household that is part of another support bubble.

Once formed the support bubble should not change.

That means that under lockdown restrictions people sharing accommodation cannot have all their respective partners visiting – one person may be able to form a support bubble with their partner who lives alone and that may be something the household wish to discuss. The others will not be able to make up an additional support bubble with their partners.

If any member of a support bubble – either someone in the household or one that the bubble has been formed with – develops symptoms or tests positive for coronavirus then they must all follow the stay at home guidance and isolate for 10 days.

And this is not all about visiting indoors – restrictions also apply outdoors. The guidance is that people can meet up with one other person from outside their household for exercise outdoors in a public outdoor place – not purely for a social meeting, so perhaps going for a walk or run together if they are local. When doing so, they must stay 2ms apart.

**To summarise:**

- Employees in shared accommodation with a shared kitchen and / or bathroom and/or lounge – they form a **single** household.
- Employees in accommodation with only a common exit / entrance which is shared – they live **alone**.
- An adult living alone can form a support bubble with **one** other household.
- A **household** can only form a support bubble with **one** adult living alone.
- **Every** member of the bubble must **isolate** for 10 days if anyone in that bubble tests **positive** or develops **symptoms**.
- Restrictions also apply **outdoors** – two people can walk or exercise together staying **2m apart**.
- Remember – Hands, Face, Space

Whilst the guidance on what you can and cannot do varies to some degree in England, Scotland and Wales, it is similar in general. There are links below to the guidance documents.

England

[Making a support bubble with another household - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Wales

<https://gov.wales/covid-19-alert-levels>

Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/>

In Scotland it is called an extended household, not a support bubble. A household must not form an extended household with more than one other household. Households can end the arrangement at any time, but should not then form an extended household with a new household for at least a 14-day period

NTF

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