

Dear Tenant,

## **CORONAVIRUS (COVID19): STAYING SAFE IN HOMES WITH SHARED FACILITIES**

We are writing to you to raise awareness of the important current UK government advice for the coronavirus. This can be found at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-and-renting-guidance-for-landlords-tenants-and-local-authorities>

### **Use of shared spaces if you live with others who are not part of your family**

Minimise the time you spend in shared spaces such as kitchens, bathrooms and sitting areas as much as possible and keep shared spaces well ventilated.

Aim to keep 2 metres (3 steps) away from people you live with. If you can, use a separate bathroom from others. Make sure you use separate towels from other people, both for drying yourself after bathing and for hand hygiene purposes. Keep your towel in your room.

If you do share a toilet and bathroom, it is important to clean them properly after every time you use them (e.g. wiping surfaces you have come into contact with using soapy water).

If you share a kitchen with others, avoid using it whilst others are in it. Take your meals back to your room to eat if possible. If you have one, use a dishwasher to clean and dry your used crockery and cutlery. If this is not possible, wash them using your usual washing up liquid and warm water and dry them thoroughly, remembering to use a separate tea towel to others and put them straight away. Do not leave things on the side to dry. Clean appliances after use, such as handles and buttons on kettles, ovens, microwaves, fridges/freezers and washing machines. Clean 'high touch points' regularly, such as door handles, light switches and bannisters/hand rails.

We understand that it will be hard for some people to separate themselves from others at home. You should do your very best to follow this guidance and everyone in your household should:

- regularly wash their hands with soap and water
- avoid touching their face
- clean frequently touched surfaces

If you are an employee and unable to work due to coronavirus, please refer to the guidance from the Department for Work and Pensions to find out about the support that is available to you.

Thank you for your cooperation at this difficult time and please monitor the Council's website for updated advice, including our local coronavirus testing offer:

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Housing Directorate

- <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/>
- <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-those-who-cant-work-from-home>



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