



Strategic Intention COVID-19 – Prevention

March 19th

COVID 19

Interim arrangements

Prevention

Strategic intention: We will adopt a risk-based approach to Home Safety Checks/Safe and Well Visits.

Home Fire Safety Checks/Safe and Well Visits

As part of the Government's response to COVID-19 the Fire & Rescue Service has adopted a risk-based approach to their Home Safety Checks / Safe & Well Visit. This action is taken in order to avoid the spread of COVID-19 to vulnerable groups. The Government's definition of vulnerable groups includes those who are:

- Aged over 70
- Aged under 70 with an underlying health condition, listed in the attached link ([Guidance on social distancing and protecting older people and vulnerable adults](#))

The non-exhaustive list of premises/people include those individuals identified as being a very high fire risk, including those at risk of:

- Arson Deliberate Fire
- Hate Crime
- Domestic Violence
- Post Fire Incident
- Assured Health or Social Care Referral for heightened fire risk (including hospital discharge, mental health, substance use and hoarding etc)

This position will be under constant review and may be subject to change based on the introduction of additional interventions or a change of phasing by the Government.

Prior to any checks being undertaken, the referral partner or occupier will be asked to confirm:

- If anyone in the property is in self-isolation?
- If anyone in the property is showing symptoms of COVID-19 such as a high temperature (greater than 37.8°C)

- If anyone in the property is showing symptoms of COVID-19 such as a new, persistent dry cough?

If the answer to any of the above is yes, then additional control measures will be required in order to complete the fire risk check. Dependent on the outcome of this triage process services may consider a telephone risk assessment or a home visit where equipment is required to be fitted.

In line with current Government advice, a two-metre distance will be kept with the householder and the person undertaking the Home Fire Safety Check should be dressed in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as approved by Public Health England (PHE). More details will be circulated on this.

Additional guidance

- [Guidance for First Responders](#) (link attached)
- [Guidance on social distancing and protecting older people and vulnerable adults](#) (link attached)