

## **Asylum Seekers FAQ**

### **Why has this hotel been selected to accommodate asylum seekers?**

The decision to accommodate a number of persons seeking asylum was made by the Home Office's asylum accommodation providers in response to the significant impact on the national asylum system under emergency Government measures.

This is happening across the country, and not just in your area, as the Government upholds its obligations under the Refugee Convention and continues to process claims for both individuals and families awaiting a decision on their asylum claim during this period of time.

### **Were the Local authority and Partners consulted on the use of the hotel, If not, why not?**

Consultation and engagement with local authorities and MPs around the use of sites in their relevant areas is paramount to the work we are doing and we will always aim to provide as much notice as possible of our intention to use sites. When a new hotel has been identified, the Home Office will write to the Local Authority Chief Executive and the MP for the area to inform them of our plans to house Asylum Seekers within the hotel/alternative accommodation. This is normally done in advance of a hotel being used, but where an urgent need for accommodation occurs, this may take place retrospectively.

We also then offer the LA a meeting to discuss the hotel, where they are able to provide feedback on the proposed site and all related matters. We ensure we are actively engaging with all partners and listening to concerns with an action plan to address these in a collaborative manner. If a MP asks for a meeting to discuss the details of the site and current situation across the asylum system then we will engage with the MP in an effective manner.

### **Why weren't residents consulted about this?**

Accommodation was procured at the hotel as a temporary emergency solution therefore it wouldn't be appropriate to carry out prior consultation with local residents.

This accommodation enables the Home Office to carry out its statutory obligations to house asylum seekers.

### **How long have they been in the country and where have they come from?**

The Home Office do not comment on individual cases. Some of the residents will be new arrivals into the UK and others may have been in the UK for some time whilst awaiting a decision on their asylum claim.

### **Have they been tested for COVID-19?**

There is no requirement for asylum seekers to be routinely tested however anyone entering the UK who is demonstrating symptoms of the virus we will follow the latest guidance.

Information relating to adherence to steps taken to manage the spread of Covid-19 following the change in guidance for providers of asylum accommodation. The latest guidelines can be accessed here:

[COVID-19: guidance for providers of accommodation for asylum seekers - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-providers-of-accommodation-for-asylum-seekers)  
([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))



### **How long will they remain in the hotel?**

The decision to accommodate persons seeking asylum is a temporary measure and is under regular review.

### **How many are being accommodated and are they single persons or families?**

The maximum number being accommodated at the hotel is 7. This includes a mixture of single people and families.

### **How are they being supported? Including health needs?**

The Home Office's Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) provider gives all asylum seekers accommodated at the hotel advice on asylum support and associated Covid-19 guidance. They are signposted to a 24-hour freephone number they can contact if they need assistance or guidance.

AIRE are provided with all of the current process, policy and health guidelines and immediate access to service providers for escalation. Working closely with the Home Office's Asylum Safeguarding Hub all asylum seekers have access to health care as required.

We are working with NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to put in place a contract with a local GP practice to provide health services to this group of vulnerable adults and children. Access to all health services is currently limited due to the Covid-19 virus and those same limitations apply to this group.

### **Are they allowed to leave the accommodation?**

Asylum seekers are not detained under any immigration law, and are therefore free to leave and return to the hotel.

### **What additional security has been put in place?**

Accommodation providers are providing additional staff to provide appropriate 24-hour on-site cover to ensure the safety of residents.

### **What is being done to ensure their behaviour inside and outside of the hotel is acceptable?**

On arrival, individuals are given an induction and provided with written guidance on adhering to expected behaviours and are expected to comply accordingly.





# Health protection for migrants and asylum seekers

## Information for accommodation staff

### Introduction

- we are seeing an increasing number of infections in people who have come to the UK to seek asylum
- the reasons for this include sharing accommodation facilities and overcrowding, long journeys and poor conditions while travelling, low vaccination coverage, and higher rates of some infections around the world
- these infections include:
  - skin infections: Group A strep, MRSA, diphtheria, scabies
  - respiratory infections: influenza, COVID-19
  - gastrointestinal infections such as norovirus

There are things you can do as accommodation providers to help reduce the risk of these infections.

### What you need to do



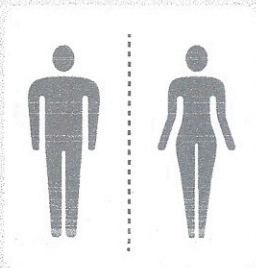
Signpost all residents to how they can register with a GP  
[www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-entitlements-migrant-health-guide#gp-services](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-entitlements-migrant-health-guide#gp-services)

### What to do if you suspect an infection



If resident unwell or new symptoms - contact 111 or on-site clinical team (non-emergency), or 999 if very unwell. Inform them of the signs and symptoms.

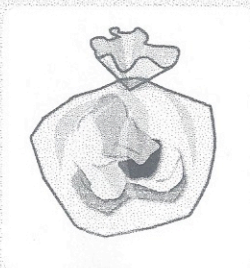
### If there is a suspected or confirmed infection in a resident then:



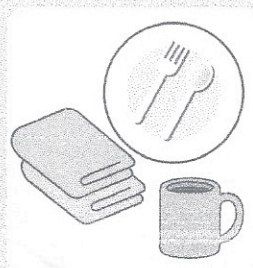
Support residents to isolate in their room immediately until health protection advice can be given.



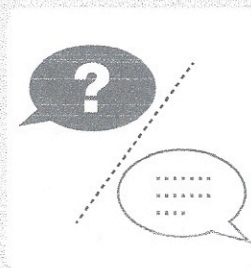
Provide equipment and products for resident to clean their room.



Advise resident to bag laundry and leave outside their room. Double bag if laundry is going off to a commercial laundry.



Provide meals in room. Ensure resident has their own individual crockery, utensils, linen & towels.



Undertake regular welfare checks. Ask about any new symptoms.

### What do we need?

The local Health Protection Team (HPT) from UKHSA may need to carry out a risk assessment. Contact the HPT if you are aware of multiple people developing the same symptoms in a short space of time or if you are informed of a diagnosed case of infectious disease. The HPT may ask about who the individual has been in close contact with, for example sharing a bathroom or kitchen, so that they can advise on any additional preventive measures such as vaccination and antibiotics. Please provide the HPT with a contact point at the accommodation who can assist as soon as possible, including phone number and email address.

### Questions, concerns or new cases?

Please call your local Health Protection team – [www.gov.uk/health-protection-team](https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team)

Further advice and guidance on the health needs of migrants - [www.gov.uk/government/collections/migrant-health-guide](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migrant-health-guide)



# Scabies

Scabies is a skin condition caused by mites. It commonly leads to intense itching and a pimple like skin rash that may affect various areas of the body. Scabies is contagious and can spread quickly in areas where people are in close physical contact.

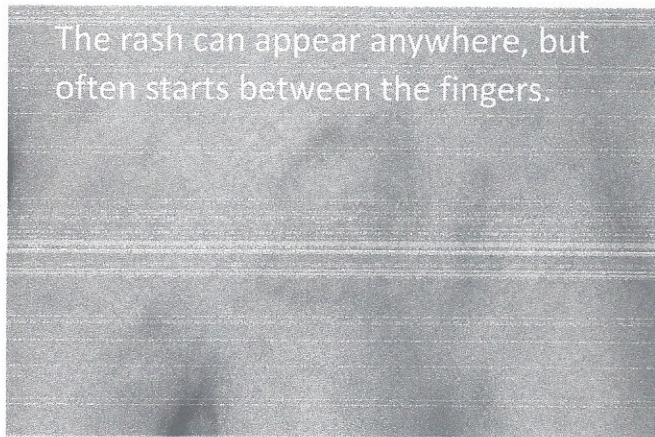
## Symptoms

The symptoms of scabies are:

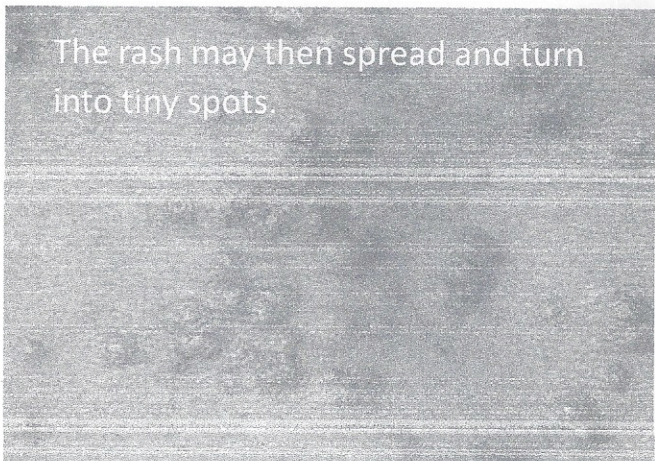
- intense itching, especially at night
- a raised rash or spots

The spots may look red. They are more difficult to see on dark skin, but you should be able to feel them.

The rash can appear anywhere, but often starts between the fingers.



The rash may then spread and turn into tiny spots.



## How can I get scabies?

Scabies usually is spread by skin-to-skin contact with a person who has scabies.

Scabies is sometimes spread indirectly by sharing items such as clothing, towels, or bedding used by an infected person.

Scabies can spread easily in crowded conditions where close body and skin contact is common.

**If you have developed any signs and symptoms of scabies, please ensure you request an appointment with the medical team as you may require treatment.**

You can find information online at the NHS website

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scabies/>