

COVID-19 Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Frequently Asked Questions

This set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) is designed to help those that are experiencing domestic abuse, or are worried about someone

The FAQs are updated on a weekly basis with key questions we hear from anyone experiencing domestic abuse, or worried about someone.

If you have a question that is not on this page, please email this to strategicpartnershipsteam@hertfordshire.gov.uk

If you would like to know more around domestic abuse during the Coronavirus pandemic, we also have [a page on our dedicated domestic abuse website](#).

Question	Response
<p>Has domestic abuse increased during the Coronavirus pandemic?</p>	<p>Coronavirus is not responsible for domestic abuse, but the lockdown has created further opportunities for perpetrators to exert power and control over their victims. The wider consequences of the outbreak, including economically, will make victims even more vulnerable.</p> <p>The government’s restrictions on isolation do not apply for those fleeing domestic abuse to a place of safety. If you need to escape your home to seek safety, you can.</p> <p>Over recent weeks local support services have seen a drop in the number of calls, leading to fears that fewer victims are able to seek help during the lockdown. We have tried to create new ways for victims to seek help during this time, which are more discrete.</p>
<p>Can I still get help and support from specialist domestic abuse services?</p>	<p>Yes. Domestic abuse services remain operational and offer a service to victims.</p> <p>Our coronavirus service updates keeps track of how services are changing and operating.</p>
<p>My partner is always around whilst we are in lockdown so it is difficult or unsafe to call. How can I get help?</p>	<p>Local and national services are developing other more discrete and creative ways to offer support.</p> <p>The Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline have launched a confidential email address kim@mailpurple.org.</p> <p>Safer Places (our safe accommodation and community services provider) have launched a live chat available via their website (8:30am- 5:00pm Mon-Fri and 8:00pm-8:00am Fri-Sun). Other services can be found in our service updates.</p>
<p>Is there help available for my partner’s abusive and violent behaviour?</p>	<p>Yes. Respect provides a range of services and a national helpline to support perpetrators including dedicated coronavirus information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Ribbon has also produced a toolkit for perpetrators to better manage their behaviour. • Local help is still available through The Change Project

<p>Can I get help if my child is abusive or violent towards me?</p>	<p>Yes. There are services and resources that can help you, together.</p> <p>If you can, talk to a trusted professional who will listen and help you find the support you need or visit the Sunflower website to find services that may be able to help.</p> <p>Kent and Medway have published useful information and guidance for parents, to help identity and form strategies to help manage the abuse. Other services that may be able to support and advise you include Oasis and Family Lives</p>
<p>Will I still get help if I return to my perpetrator?</p>	<p>Yes. Domestic abuse services remain operational and offer a service to victims. Your safety and support remains priority and they will work with you within their capacity. The way in which services support you may need to change, but help and support will always be available.</p> <p>We keep a directory of services, updated on a weekly basis with any changes to the way in which services are run.</p>
<p>Will I still get help if I move to another area?</p>	<p>Yes. Moving to another area will not prevent you from getting the help and support you need. The services that are available may change from area to area which may mean the help and support you receive will be different or provided by a different agency.</p> <p>Hertfordshire services will work together to ensure consistency of service where they can and a smooth transition to a different service where this may be needed. Our services will do all they can to support you and there are national services available to help should you need to travel to a new area for your safety. Speak to a professional known to you or take a look at our directory of services.</p>
<p>Can I get any legal help?</p>	<p>To find out what's available and whether you're eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visit GOV.UK • speak to a local service • watch this video from Rights from Women.

Do you have a question about domestic abuse, or specialist service provision during this time? Please submit it at: strategicpartnershipsteam@hertfordshire.gov.uk