

Answers from Public Health England to questions from Central West London Healthwatch to Kensington and Chelsea Council and West London Clinical Commissioning Group

11th August Week Three

If the air quality is within safe limits, why are people still experiencing respiratory difficulties?

Respiratory illnesses can be caused by a range of reasons other than exposure to the fire. Public Health England has confirmed that the air quality is safe for residents.

West London CCG is aware that residents are still concerned about respiratory conditions, and health professionals in the area are directing people to their GP for assessment, treatment and advice. Those residents who require respiratory screening/on-going treatment can be 'fast tracked' by their GP to our community respiratory service, and seen within 14 days of referral.

If patients do have any concerns about their symptoms, they should contact their GP directly. If you need urgent healthcare advice and do not have a GP, or your GP surgery is closed, please ring NHS 111. If you need to register with a GP, visit [NHS Choices](#) to find out how.

Public Health England has made information available via the internet:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-advice-following-the-grenfell-tower-fire>

West London CCG has launched a website to help people affected by the Grenfell Tower fire. It includes information on physical, emotional health and wellbeing and how to get help with coming to terms with the disaster: www.grenfell.nhs.uk/

Have GPs been advised to expect enquires from Grenfell victims and breathing/ chest problems?

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What advice, information or training have GPs received about the respiratory difficulties people are experiencing since the fire?

West London CCG is working closely with our local GP practices to ensure they have capacity to see and respond to patients who are attending appointments with breathing/chest problems. Practices in the area are aware that they may be an increase in respiratory queries and these patients are to be prioritised appropriately. Public Health England has provided GPs with information on air quality - this will help GPs with any questions you may have about this.

We are working closely with the community respiratory service provider, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, which has provided advice and guidance for GPs for respiratory conditions.

Residents who are concerned about respiratory conditions should contact their GP for assessment, treatment and advice. Those residents who require respiratory screening/on-going treatment can be 'fast tracked' by their GP to our community respiratory service, and seen within 14 days of referral.

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Have GPs been asked whether there has been an increase in people with chest problems?

Yes, we have asked GPs if they have seen an increase. We have contacted all practices in the surrounding area to find out if there has been a significant increase in the number of residents reporting chest/ respiratory/ breathing problems. We can confirm that they have

not seen an increase in residents presenting with these conditions. We will continue to monitor this.

We have provided all practices with information about the community respiratory service. Residents who are concerned about respiratory conditions should contact their GP for assessment, treatment and advice. Those residents who require respiratory screening/on-going treatment can be 'fast tracked' by their GP to our community respiratory service, and seen within 14 days of referral.

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Are there plans for long term studies on the respiratory health of the local population, especially children, young people and those susceptible to lung problems?

Public Health England has been assessing the impact of the Grenfell Tower fire on air quality during and after the fire, and confirmed that there has been no detectable deterioration in air quality. There is considered to be no wider health risk to the local population relating to air quality, and therefore there is no plan for long term studies on respiratory health of the local population.

Local GP practices have not reported an increase in patients with respiratory conditions.

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