



## Public health advice for cleaning clothes and belongings related to the Salisbury incident

### Background

You will be aware of recent events in the Salisbury area involving a nerve agent that has led to three people being admitted to hospital. We understand you may be concerned about possible health risks and this document is designed to provide you with advice.

This precautionary advice is for those who visited The Mill pub in Salisbury between 13:30 hours on Sunday 4 March and closing time at 23:10 hours on Monday 5 March 2018 or the nearby Zizzi restaurant between 13:30 hours on Sunday 4 March and closing time at 21:00 hours on Monday 5 March 2018.

### Risk to public health

Based on current evidence, the risk to the general public from this substance has not changed and remains low.

While there is no immediate health risk to anyone who may have been in either of these locations, it is possible, but unlikely, that any of the substance which has come into contact with clothing or belongings could still be present in minute amounts and therefore contaminate your skin.

Over time, repeated skin contact with contaminated items may pose a small risk to health. This risk can be removed by taking the actions explained in this document.

You do not need to seek advice from a health professional unless you are experiencing symptoms.

## We advise you to take the following action

If you visited either of the two locations within the specified time frame or have been directly contacted by Public Health England, you should:

- wash the clothing that you were wearing in an ordinary washing machine using your regular detergent at the temperature recommended for the clothing
- wipe personal items such as phones, handbags and other electronic items with cleansing or baby wipes and dispose of the wipes in the bin (ordinary domestic waste disposal)
- if your items are dry-clean only, you should keep them double-bagged and securely fastened and arrange to have them collected by the council. Collection should be arranged by emailing [collect@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:collect@wiltshire.gov.uk) and a form for collection will be sent to you. If you are unable to send an email, please send a letter to: Collections Westwood Room, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8JN including your address so we can write back to you. The closing date to request a collection is Sunday 15 April 2018. Your items will be collected from your home address at an agreed time. You will be compensated for any items which are collected
- none of these actions should damage your washing machine
- other items such as jewellery and spectacles that cannot go in the washing machine or be cleaned with cleansing or baby wipes, should be hand washed with warm water and detergent, and then rinsed with clean cold water

Please wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after cleaning any items.

This precautionary advice is only for the clothes worn or items carried when you may have been in contact with the substance. It does not apply to the belongings or clothes of others that you may have come into contact with later – these items do not need to be cleaned.

## Cleaning and general advice

1. **What should I do with the cloths and screen wipes used to clean any items?**  
Place them in a plastic bag and put in the household bin (ordinary domestic waste).
2. **I don't own a washing machine – can I use a launderette?**  
Yes.
3. **What should I do with my shoes?**  
Shoes can initially be wiped clean with a damp cloth and subsequently dried or polished as normal. The cloth should be disposed of in a plastic bag in the household bin (ordinary domestic waste).

**4. What should I do if I live in the same household as someone who was at the Zizzi restaurant or The Mill pub?**

These actions are only advised for individuals who were in Zizzi restaurant or The Mill pub within the specified timeframes. The advice relates only to clothes they had on and the personal items they were carrying during the visit. The advice does not apply to members of the same household who did not visit in person, or their belongings.

**5. Should I clean the whole house?**

No, additional specific cleaning is necessary only for clothes you were wearing or items you had with you when you visited Zizzi restaurant or The Mill pub within the specified timeframe.

**6. What if I want to destroy my items?**

You do not need to destroy any items. If possible, wash the clothing that you were wearing in an ordinary washing machine using your regular detergent at the temperature recommended for the clothing. If the items are dry-clean only, contact the council and it will collect them from you.

**7. Can I use my washing machine again afterwards?**

Yes, your washing machine should be safe to use.

**8. Why are you only telling me this now?**

We publish advice on a continuous basis as soon as new information arises from the investigation. Our initial advice on clothing other than dry-clean only was provided on Sunday 11 March. All available evidence regarding this substance has now been reviewed by scientists across government to ensure members of the public are provided with the safest but also most practical advice. All those with dry-clean only clothes have already been advised how to safely store their items and so they should not pose any immediate risk. This is a highly precautionary approach to address any possible future risks.

**9. Will I be compensated for dry-clean only items that are collected?**

Yes. With your collection form you will receive information on compensation, this can be returned with your collection form.

**10. Can I dispose of dry-clean only items myself or burn them?**

No, you should follow the advice provided and arrange to have them collected and safely disposed of.

**11. Where will the items be disposed by the council?**

They will be disposed of safely.

**12. What if I have already taken the items to the dry-cleaner?**

There is no immediate risk to health from these items but they should not be dry-cleaned if this can be avoided. Contact your dry-cleaners to retrieve the items before dry-cleaning if possible. If you retrieve them, or if they have already been cleaned, collect them, double bag them and dispose of safely as above.

**13. Can I wash the clothes myself at home?**

If you have dry-clean only clothes in your home, please contact the council who will collect them from your home and dispose of them.

**14. Why isn't dry-cleaning safe?**

The safest way to remove any trace contamination is by using soap or detergent and water. As this isn't possible for dry-clean only clothing, we are arranging for this to be collected to ensure we have removed all traces of the substance.

**15. I am a dry-cleaner, are any risks posed to me?**

There are no risks posed to dry-cleaners as long as the advice given above is followed.

**16. I don't live in Wiltshire but am affected, will I be compensated and how do I arrange for my items to be collected?**

If you live outside of the Wiltshire area please email [collect@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:collect@wiltshire.gov.uk) or send a letter to: Collections Westwood Room, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8JN including your address and Wiltshire Council will contact you to inform you of the process for dealing with items.

**17. What is the process for collection?**

Please email [collect@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:collect@wiltshire.gov.uk) or send a letter to: Collections Westwood Room, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN including your address and a form for collection will be sent to you. The closing date to request a collection is Sunday 15 April 2018. Your items will be collected from your home address at an agreed time.

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