



HM Government

Information Sheet 3: Public Health Summary

About this Information Sheet

This Information Sheet provides a summary of the public health position and advice. It should be read in conjunction with the Multi-Agency Partnership (MAP) method statement entitled 'Analysis and Interpretation Methodology for the Soil Investigation at Grenfell Tower'.

Public Health position

The AECOM report and Technical Notes (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/grenfell-environmental-checks-stage-1-report#technical-notes>) were received by Public Health England (PHE) and other members of the MAP. PHE have looked at the evidence presented by AECOM: chemicals which may have been released during the fire; potential sources of soil contamination from past historic land uses or other human activities and the conclusions drawn by AECOM.

PHE agrees with AECOM's interpretation of the results and the requirement for further work in Stage 2 to confirm the level of risk.

Based on the results obtained at Stage 1 and the results of the ongoing air quality monitoring in the vicinity of the Tower (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-monitoring-following-the-grenfell-tower-fire>), our conclusion remains that there is nothing to suggest that the public needs to take any immediate action or that the MAP needs to change its current investigation strategy at Stage 2. The results of the Stage 1 preliminary risk assessment and the assessment of ongoing air quality monitoring mean our health advice to the public remains the same. Until we have full results of all the soil testing to be undertaken at Stage 2, we continue to advise a precautionary approach.

Public Health advice

We recommend that anyone handling soil should take the following good hygiene practices.

- Continue to enjoy using all of your garden space as you normally would, including grassed areas, decking, patios and other areas of hardstanding.
- Wear gloves when gardening. If you have cuts or sores, be especially attentive to avoiding any direct contact with the soil.
- Follow normal hygiene precautions and wash hands thoroughly after working or playing in the garden or allotment and before handling food, drinking or smoking.
- Remove and clean your outdoor gardening shoes, tools and gloves before entering your home; indoor dust may become contaminated if you don't wipe your feet or take off your shoes.
- If you grow vegetables or fruit in your garden or on your allotment wash and/or peel produce before cooking and/or consumption.
- Where possible, don't let young children put soil in their mouths.

However, if any members of the community around Grenfell are concerned about their health, they should discuss this with their GP who is best placed to assess individual health needs and consider the most appropriate clinical investigation and/or treatment. The NHS are also offering enhanced health checks for residents who are concerned about their health. (Further details are available at <https://www.grenfell.nhs.uk/physical-health/enhanced-health-check>)