

# **Secretary of State and Mayors' Pledge To Ensure Necessary Building Safety Improvements Can Continue**

**April 2020**

Saving lives is our number one priority, which is why we have told people they must stay at home and help protect the NHS.

We know that for some residents, ongoing work to your buildings may feel like an unwelcome imposition at this difficult time.

But with more people staying at home than before, efforts to improve residents' safety are as important as they have ever been.

That is why it is vital that buildings are made safe as quickly as possible. All residents deserve to be, and feel, safe in their own homes.

Making buildings safe, including remediating high-rise buildings with unsafe cladding, is a priority for all of us.

We are clear that building safety work should continue where it is safe to do so, in accordance with public health guidance and procedures put in place by the construction industry to protect the workforce and minimise the risk of spreading infection.

Workers safety and wellbeing must be taken seriously. They deserve our appreciation for continuing to support this essential work at this difficult time. Employers should ensure their workers on-site are able to follow this advice, and they should consider responsible arrangements for ensuring their workers can travel safely, such as through staggering site hours to reduce public transport use during peak periods.

Recent weeks have seen some employers leading the way in adapting their procedures to ensure this important work continues, such as by allocating decontamination areas on site and by providing additional washing facilities to reduce the number of workers gathering together.

We hope those leading the remediation work can continue where it is safe to do so and that residents feel able to co-operate with any reasonable conditions that may be required for them to be safe.

We will continue to do all we can to support this important work and to support affected residents.