

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Screening for Patients



Introduction

COVID-19 is a viral infection from the family of viruses called coronaviruses that cause symptoms like the common cold or flu-like illnesses. Most people (over 80%) with the COVID-19 infection will get better on their own, without any complications or the need to seek additional medical attention. A small minority of people will become seriously unwell with this infection; this is often because of breathing problems and developing pneumonia.

What are the symptoms of someone infected with a COVID-19?

Common signs include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties. Most symptoms for most people will be mild. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

Why am I being screened for COVID-19?

If you are admitted to hospital overnight, you will be tested to see if you have COVID-19. This includes patients who may not have any symptoms of COVID-19.

When and where will I be screened for COVID-19?

You will be screened when you come into hospital. This means you will need to isolate in your room until the swab results are returned.

How will I be screened for COVID-19?

We use a swab of your throat and nose to test for COVID-19. The swab is a cotton bud. The test only takes a few seconds. It is painless, but may be uncomfortable.

When will I get the results from the swabs?

Your swabs will be sent to the laboratory, to test for COVID-19. The result will come back one to two days after the swab has been taken.

What happens after I have been screened?

If you are found to be positive for COVID-19 you will be asked to isolate for 14 days. This will either be in a side room on your own or in a bay with other patients who have tested positive for COVID-19. Staff will wear protective equipment when providing your care: gloves, aprons, face masks and visors even if you do not have symptoms.

What can I do to protect myself and others?

- **Maintain good hand hygiene:** washing your hands with soap and water after using the toilet, before meals and meal preparation, after coughing and sneezing.
- **Cough or sneeze into a tissue**, disposing of the tissue, and then washing your hands.
- **Maintaining a distance of at least two metres** from other people

For more information

Should you have any further questions or require further advice please speak to your doctor, nurse, or Infection Prevention Team.

Infection Prevention Team 01535 294848

Write any questions/queries below:

The Public Health England (PHE) website and will give further guidance and information.

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment, the Text Relay Service can be used to contact us. Dial 18001 followed by the contact number.
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If you require this leaflet in other languages or formats please telephone the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01535 294019
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