









## Advice for patients attending the Ophthalmology Department during coronavirus (Covid-19)

In order to protect patients, staff, and the public, and practice effective social distancing, we are introducing new arrangements for Outpatient appointments. Please read carefully the instructions below.

### Before attending your appointment






Please answer the following questions:

	Do you have any <b>new</b> symptoms of a cough?
	Do you have a fever/high temperature?
	Do you have a change or loss of taste and/or smell?
	Do you have any <b>new</b> symptoms of shortness of breath?
	Have you been in contact with anyone who has either a cough or fever in the 14 days prior to your appointment?
	Have you been in contact with anyone confirmed to be coronavirus positive?

If you have answered 'YES' to any of the above, please **DO NOT** attend the department. Instead, telephone the department on **01305 255980** as soon as possible for advice or for your appointment to be rebooked. **Please refer to 111 or the Government website for further advice if needed.**

### Attending your appointment

If you have answered 'NO' to all of the above questions, you may attend your appointment.

	<p>Please attend your appointment <b>alone</b>. If you need support during your appointment, you can bring a <b>maximum of one</b> family member or Carer. Please do not bring any other relative with you to any appointment.</p>
	<p>Please arrive no earlier than 10 minutes prior to your allocated time slot. Please be on time. If you are running late, contact the Department on 01305 255980 before coming to the hospital, as we may have to rearrange your appointment. If you are arriving by patient transport please contact the department for additional any instructions.</p>
	<p>Hands should be washed frequently for 20 seconds each time, at home, before coming into the hospital and regularly, as needed, eg after touching your face or using the toilet. Please make use of the hand sanitiser at main and department entrances on arrival and departure at the Trust.</p>
	<p>Please use a cloth covering on attendance at the Trust. Guidance on how to make a cloth covering is available on the Government website (detailed below). If you are not able to bring one with you, please contact the department prior to your appointment. If you are required to remove it, you will be asked to do so by a clinician.</p>
	<p>In order to comply with social distancing rules, to the best of your ability, please keep 2 metres apart from other people wherever possible and follow the signs and directions in the Trust. <b>Where possible, please keep to the LEFT in corridors.</b></p> <p>Should any diagnostic tests be required eg blood tests, you might not be able to wait for these as before and may need to return to the hospital on a future occasion to have them done.</p>

**Please be aware that front line staff will be wearing full protective clothing for everyone's safety.**

We understand that many of our patients may be shielding at this time. We have tried to make sure you are at as low a risk as possible. If you fall into this category and are still concerned about attending, please let us know as soon as possible.

**Contact Numbers:** Ophthalmology Department: 01305 255980

**Useful Websites:** <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

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