



Information for inpatients who are being tested for coronavirus (Covid-19)

Why am I being tested?

You have been tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) during your admission, as your symptoms suggested you may have the virus. The [main symptoms of coronavirus](#) are a high temperature, a new cough and a loss/change in your sense of smell or taste.

How is the test done?

The test is a simple and quick swab of the nose and throat. Some patients may find this invasive and slightly uncomfortable, but it is painless and lasts only a few seconds.

When will my results be back?

Due to pressure on the healthcare system, the test result will take several days to be reported and we may not be able to inform you in person of the result. It will in due course appear on electronic systems that your GP practice can access, but please do not overwhelm GP practices with calls for results. At present we will contact you directly with the result once available. The advice below would apply whether your result was positive or negative.

What if I have been discharged from the hospital?

Please continue to self-isolate for the full isolation periods from the day your symptoms started, as per Public Health Guidance that can be found online ([Stay at home: guidance for households with possible coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)). This is summarised below but please refer to the detailed advice online.

If after 10 days you feel better and no longer have a high temperature, then you can return to normal. If you have ongoing fevers then continue to self-isolate. The cough may persist for several weeks and does not mean you need to continue self-isolating if you are otherwise well.

If you live with others and you are the first in the household to have symptoms of coronavirus, then you must stay at home for 10 days. All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10-day isolation period too. The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person either began to show symptoms or tested positive.

For anyone else in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 10 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original isolation period.

If you can, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

If your symptoms get worse, [use the NHS 111 online service](#). If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. Call 999 for a medical emergency.

[Further information about self-isolation guidance is available online.](#)

What if I am still an inpatient?

If you are still an inpatient you will be isolated in a cubicle or nursed in an area with other patients who have the same virus.

About this leaflet:

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