



Management of a possible case of COVID-19

Does the patient require hospital admission with either clinical or radiological evidence of pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome, or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia) in isolation or in combination with any other symptoms, or influenza-like illness?

(fever $\geq 37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ and at least one of the following which must be of acute onset: persistent cough (with or without sputum), hoarseness, nasal discharge or congestion, shortness of breath, sore throat, wheezing, sneezing)

YES

NO

Secondary care:

Patients admitted with these presentations should be tested.

Infection prevention and control measures whilst awaiting test results, including isolation and cohorting of patients, should be implemented in line with the Trust seasonal influenza operational plan.

Healthcare workers should wear appropriate PPE:

- aprons, gloves, fluid repellent mask and eye protection whilst assessing and treating patients
- gowns/coveralls, gloves, FFP2/FFP3 respirator and eye protection whilst performing aerosol generating procedures

FOR POSITIVE CASES

Notify the local PHE Health Protection Team* **only if:**

- case is from long term care facility; or
- case is from prison or other prescribed place of detention; or
- case is related to a hospital outbreak; or
- any other unusual scenario

Patient has COVID-19 symptoms, but is well enough to remain in the community

- new continuous cough; or
- high temperature ($\geq 37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$); or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

YES

NO

Stay at home (see [Stay at home guidance](#)) and [arrange testing](#)

Consider alternative diagnoses

if illness worsens during the 10-day isolation, **OR** there is no improvement of symptoms at the end of the 10-day isolation:

- use the NHS111 online (111.nhs.uk), or call NHS 111
- in an emergency, call 999

Foot note - For further guidance:

- * [Link to local Health Protection Team lookup](#)
[Link to background information](#)
[Link to initial investigation of possible cases guidance](#)

- [Link to infection prevention and control guidance](#)
[Link to clinical diagnostic laboratories guidance](#)