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 ≥37.8°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)

**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

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

**FOR POSITIVE CASES**

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

- new continuous cough; or
- high temperature (≥37.8°C); or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

**Stay at home**
(see Stay at home guidance) and arrange testing

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

Consider alternative diagnoses

**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