



Information for  
patients and  
carers

## Covid Screening for Radiotherapy Patients

# What is Covid-19?

COVID-19 is the disease caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. Most people will experience mild symptoms but some people may progress to develop a severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

Generally speaking, coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer or chronic lung disease.

## Common signs and symptoms of Covid-19

- Fever
- Persistent cough
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of taste and/or smell

## Why and when will you be screened for Covid-19?

Coronavirus is transmitted from person to person, after close contact, for example in a household, workplace or health care setting.

In order to try and prevent the spread of infection whilst in hospital between patients, visitors and staff you will be offered screening for Covid-19:

- At your first treatment appointment
- If you develop symptoms of Covid-19 at any point during your treatment

## How will you be screened for Covid-19?

The screening test for Covid-19 is quick and simple. A small cotton bud swab is taken from inside of your nose and throat. The test is painless and may be a little uncomfortable, but only for a few seconds. On some occasions you may be asked to provide a sputum sample.

## When will you get the results from the test?

Your swabs will be sent to a laboratory, which tests them for Covid-19. The results come back approximately in one to two days, but may be sooner. You will only be informed if your test is positive but if you want to check your result please ask your radiographer.

## What happens after I have been screened?

During treatment in the department whilst awaiting the results of the screening tests, you will be treated on any of the treatment machines (linear accelerators) if you do not have symptoms of Covid-19.

During your treatment, if you are found to be positive for Covid-19 following the screening tests, or if you start to display symptoms, your treatment will be discussed with your consultant and if deemed appropriate this will continue on a dedicated treatment machine.

You will be given further details about how to attend for these appointments from the radiographers. You will be required to isolate at home following current Public Health England guidance and a repeat screening test will be performed after 14 days.

## **What happens if you come into contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19?**

If during your treatment you come into close contact with someone who has tested positive, you should inform the radiographers immediately by telephone and your treatment will then be moved to an isolated machine.

## **How can you protect yourself from others whilst on treatment?**

- Maintaining good hand hygiene
- Coughing or sneezing into a tissue, disposing of the tissue and then washing your hands
- Maintaining a distance of two metres from other people
- Wearing a face mask if able to do so
- Minimise contact with other people and isolate where possible

## **What can I expect from the staff working in the hospital?**

All staff who are working in the hospital are expected to wear a surgical face mask, however extra personal protective equipment including masks, visors, gloves and aprons may be required if your care giver is in close contact with you (within two metres).

## Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please speak to the radiographers.

## Sources of further information

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets)

**Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.**

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking including Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal.

If you want to stop smoking you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

**Gujarati:**

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપા કરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણામાં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

**Romanian:**

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

**Polish:**

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

**Punjabi:**

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

**Urdu:**

دوسری زبانوں اور ریڑی اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو  
یچھیہا یجی یبہ ابی دست ہو یسکت ہے براے مہر یبان پوے یچھدی۔ معلومات

**Arabic:**

مطبوعة بأحرف كبيرة و بلغات إذا كنت تريد مساعدة في فهم هذه المعلومات يُرجى أن تطلب  
أخرى يمكن تو فسير هذه المعلومات

**Department:** Radiotherapy  
**Division:** Surgery  
**Production date:** January 2021  
**Review date:** May 2024  
**CA5 V1**