
CT Scanning Department

Guidance for patients with unexpected findings suggestive of coronavirus infection on imaging

We are writing to inform you that some changes have been identified within your lungs during your recent CT scan, which are suggestive of **possible** coronavirus infection.

Key messages:

You should **self-isolate for 14 days** from today and follow the guidance provided on how to do this in the Public Health England information sheet, which you have been given.

If you develop symptoms of infection during this period (eg. fever, continuous cough), you should **self-isolate for 7 days from the date your symptoms start**.

Examples:

- If you develop symptoms 13 days after today, you must then self-isolate for a further 7 days from that date
- If you develop symptoms 2 days after today, you need only self-isolate for a further 7 days from that date

I have been told I am in a group identified as being “extremely vulnerable” – what should I do?

A small number of people (eg. organ transplant recipients, those undergoing treatment for certain cancers and those with some other serious underlying conditions) are at higher risk of serious illness in the event of coronavirus infection. If you are within such a group, you should have already been notified in writing and advised to stay at home and avoid face-to-face contact with others, referred to as ‘shielding’, for at least **12 weeks**. You will have also been told to call **NHS 111** without delay if you develop any symptoms.

While you may be understandably concerned, today’s finding **does not change this advice**. It is not confirmed that you have the infection and you might not develop symptoms of illness. If you develop symptoms, call **NHS 111** as instructed. You should also notify your carers or any others with whom you have unavoidable close contact of the possibility of infection, so they can take appropriate precautions.

Why am I being told to self-isolate for 14 days from today, but only 7 days from when I develop symptoms, if that occurs?

It is possible you have been recently infected and have not yet developed symptoms. The incubation period (the time it takes for symptoms to develop) is estimated to be 14 days. If you do not develop symptoms during this time, it is very unlikely you will do so and any risk to those you are in contact with is very low.

For people who develop symptoms, it is estimated they are infectious to others only for the **first 7 days** after these appear. After this time, the risk of transmission is very low. This is why even if you were to develop symptoms on day 2 after today's date, you need only isolate for a further 7 days.

Does this definitely mean I have coronavirus infection?

No. However, some people develop few or no symptoms following infection. It is therefore possible you are recovering from coronavirus infection of which you were unaware, or have recently been infected and have not yet developed symptoms. We cannot tell which of these scenarios is the case.

Could there be a different explanation for the scan findings?

Yes. There are other possible explanations for the findings on your scan and the vast majority of these are of no concern. However, the changes we see in your lungs are the same or similar for these other conditions and coronavirus infection, and we cannot easily tell them apart. If we advise any further imaging to evaluate these, you will be notified.

Do I need any further tests to look at my lungs?

No. Unless we advise you in person after your scan has been reported. Most people infected with coronavirus develop mild symptoms (or possibly none at all) and recover uneventfully. You will not need an additional test for confirmation of infection, since this will not change the advice you are being given today.

Contact details:

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the CT Scanning team on XXXXXXX. They are available between XXXX and XXXX.



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Other formats:



If you would like this information in another language or audio, please contact Interpreting services on telephone: XXXXXXXX, or email: interpreting@addenbrookes.nhs.uk For Large Print information please contact the patient information team: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk



Document history

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Contact number	01223 349223
Publish/Review date	Published April 2020/Review April 2022
File name	Guidance for patients with unexpected findings suggestive of coronavirus on Imaging.
Version number/Ref	Version 2.0