covid-19 in primary care (UK)

What should I do if I suspect a patient may have coronavirus disease 2019?

Version 5.0 3 Apr 2020

This graphic is based on guidance from Public Health England and Health Protection Scotland to prepare primary care practices in the UK. It has been updated to reflect new UK government advice to the public announced on 16 March 2020



Person with one or more of:

New continuous cough

Fever ≥ 37.8°



Remote consultation

Aim to triage all patients online or by phone



Patient identified in GP surgery

Assess whether clinically stable

Initial data indicate that patients display symptoms with approximately these proportions of severity, with elderly people and those with underlying health problems more affected:

5%

Critically unwell

Follow local protocols for further assessment and possible hospital admission

Call 999

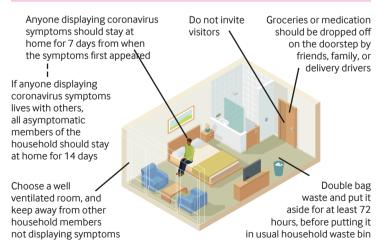
Inform operator that patient may have covid-19

Patients with mild symptoms should be identified at reception. and asked to return home and self isolate

> Acutely unwell patients should be isolated, and assessed while using standard PPE (see bottom right)

Self isolation

Patients do not need to contact NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days, they should contact NHS 111 online. For a medical emergency, they should dial 999



UK government advice on self isolation is available at: http://bit.ly/ukgovisol

* ARDS = acute respiratory distress syndrome

the**bmi**

Read the full article online

http://bit.ly/BMJcov19

Patients requiring hospitalisation

Suspect covid-19 in any seriously ill patients with influenza-like illness, ARDS*, or pneumonia

Preparing the GP surgery in advance

Advise patients with a cough or fever to avoid attending in person, via:

Warning notice on online booking systems

Reception staff Automated phone systems

Prominent posters SMS message systems

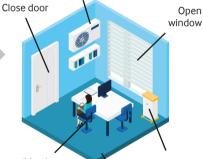
Isolation room

Located away from waiting areas and other consultation rooms

Without carpeted floors or soft furnishing

Close to separate toilet facility

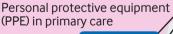
Turn off air conditioning



If possible, do not enter room, reassure and update patient by telephone. If tolerated. patient to wear fluid-resistant surgical mask

Dispose of all waste in a clinical waste bag

Clean and disinfect hard surfaces and reusable care equipment after patient leaves. Cleaners should wear appropriate personal protective equipment



Goggles or visor For any direct patient care (within 2 meters) or for collection of nasopharyngeal swab(s), use standard PPE

Fluid-resistant surgical mask (Type IIR)

Apron Dispose of PPE as clinical

waste after use

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