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Kidney Cancer Support Network Newsletter



Coronavirus: Advice for cancer patients

The Government have issued new guidance for [staying alert and safe \(social distancing\)](#) and [staying safe outside your home](#). This guidance applies in England only and can also be found on the [NHS website here](#).

For people living in [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) and [Northern Ireland](#) the advice remains:

- Stay at home and only go outside for food, health reasons or work (only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home.

Our [guide to the coronavirus outbreak on our website](#) has been updated with the most recent [NHS](#) and [government](#) advice. This guide is based on current advice and information released by the UK government in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The information is updated when new guidance is released.

Please check our [coronavirus page](#) for updates regularly.

Who is at highest risk of coronavirus?

The NHS has written to those people considered to be at highest clinical risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) to inform them that they should stay at home at all times and avoid all face-to-face contact until the end of June 2020. This is set out on the [NHS website](#), updated on 13 May 2020. This is known as 'shielding'.

People falling into this highest clinical risk group include people having **immunotherapy** or other continuing **antibody treatments** for cancer and people having other **targeted cancer treatments** which

can affect the immune system, such as **protein kinase inhibitors** or PARP inhibitors. Please see the [NHS website](#) for a full list of those people who need to shield.

If you feel you need to shield and have not yet received a letter from the NHS asking you to do so, please contact your healthcare team or GP for further advice.

The Government have also produced a list of frequently asked questions about shielding, which can be accessed here: [Frequently Asked Questions about shielding](#)

Who can get tested for coronavirus?

The test currently available is a PCR test to determine whether you currently have COVID-19. Antibody tests to determine whether you have previously had COVID-19 and have immunity to the virus are not yet available.

Patients in hospital with coronavirus symptoms have been tested to find out if they have COVID-19. Going forward, everyone admitted to hospital will be tested, regardless of the reason for their admission. If you are not in hospital and would like to be tested, you must meet certain criteria. These criteria for testing are different in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

In England, those who can get tested currently include:

- All essential workers (as listed by the Department of Health and Social Care, DHSC) including NHS and social care workers with symptoms
- Anyone over 65 with symptoms
- Anyone with symptoms whose work cannot be done from home (such as construction workers, plumbers, shop workers, delivery drivers etc)
- Anyone who has coronavirus symptoms and lives with anyone from the above categories

- Social care workers and residents in care homes, regardless of whether they have symptoms, both to investigate potential outbreaks and later as part of a programme to test all care homes
- Household members of NHS workers, within three days of developing symptoms (in line with [NHS England guidance](#)).

You can [apply for a test online](#).

Further information

People with cancer and their families might feel especially worried about the virus, especially as restrictions start to be relaxed. Cancer and its treatment can lower your ability to fight infection. To keep yourselves safe, we recommend that you follow [NHS advice](#).

Find answers to the most frequently asked questions about what you should and should not do during the coronavirus outbreak on the government's [FAQs page](#).

Key up-to-date information from the government (updated 12 May 2020):

- [NHS coronavirus advice](#)
- [GOV.UK: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): What you need to do](#)
- [GOV.UK: Number of coronavirus \(COVID-19\) cases and risk in the UK](#)
- [GOV.UK: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Guidance](#)
- [GOV.UK: Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19](#)
- [GOV.UK: Staying alert and safe \(social distancing\)](#)
- [GOV.UK: Guidance for parents and carers on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)
- [GOV.UK: Stay at home: Guidance for households with possible coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

- [Coronavirus: Advice for cancer patients](#) from One Cancer Voice

Travel advice:

- [GOV.UK: COVID-19 travel advice](#)
- The Foreign Office has published [information and advice on travel safety](#)
- The World Health Organisation is providing updated [covid-19 travel advice](#).



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