

Protecting people attending for diagnostic imaging tests or interventional radiology procedures

We understand that you might be worried about going to hospital for diagnostic tests, X-rays or scans or for procedures undertaken with imaging guidance during the coronavirus pandemic. We would like to reassure you that imaging teams are doing everything they can to keep you safe.

The safety of patients is our top priority. Most imaging and image-guided treatment takes place within hospital departments, so we have made arrangements to protect you from coronavirus during your visit. If you have been waiting for your test and it has been delayed, we have already been in touch with the doctor who referred you. They have told us you still need this test, so we are keen for you to come in for your appointment as soon as possible so that the results can be shared with them.

How am I protected?

Where it is safe and appropriate to do so, we will delay appointments for patients who have tested positive for coronavirus or have symptoms. If it is considered not to be safe to delay the test, arrangements have been made for those with coronavirus symptoms to be imaged separately from those who do not have symptoms or have tested negative. This could include separate waiting areas, equipment and staff, or specific appointment times, depending on local facilities.

Precautions are likely to include:

- **Asking if you have symptoms of coronavirus**, both before your appointment and on arrival in the hospital or department – symptoms of coronavirus can be found on the NHS website (www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/#symptoms)
- **Checking your temperature** on arrival
- **Changing the entry and exit points** in the imaging department – look out for signs
- **Asking you to wash your hands or use hand sanitiser** when you arrive at or leave the department
- **Minimising contact in waiting areas** by arranging the seating at least two metres apart or asking you to wait in your car or outside the department until the imaging team is ready for you. A single carer may be permitted in certain individual circumstances, but relatives may have to wait outside.

The precautions appropriate to your situation will be explained when you attend the department for your test.

What else do I need to know?

Where possible, we will try to arrange all tests and appointments at a single visit to reduce the number of times you have to come in.

The Government has made it mandatory that all patients and visitors must wear a face covering when attending a hospital site, so you should make sure you prepare and remember to bring a face covering or mask for yourself and any carers who may also attend the imaging department with you.

You will also see the imaging team wearing face masks or face shields, as well as other protective equipment such as aprons and gloves.

As has always been the case, we will clean equipment and waiting areas thoroughly in accordance with infection control policies. As far as possible, this will help minimise the risk of infection while you are with us.

If you have any concerns, please contact the imaging team who will be able to give you more information.