

Managing COVID-19 in Primary Care

COLD sites and home visits for non-symptomatic patients

These patients **DO NOT** meet the Case Definition: Symptoms of new consistent cough and/or temperature 37.8 degrees or above, and are absent of URTI symptoms and do not live with someone with symptoms

CONSULTATION PATHWAY



Management of Non COVID-19 Patients in General Practice

Non COVID-19 patients; manage as usual in general practice
This includes ;

- Any patient who does not have nor lives with someone who has relevant symptoms of a new consistent cough and or a temperature of 37.8°C and above
- Patients with a high temperature but NO COUGH who have an alternative diagnosis such as cellulitis, urinary tract infection

Avoid throat examinations where possible, due to coughing and large droplet spread.

Nose and Throat swabbing is not an aerosol generated procedure

Cold clinics will include routine essential appointments including childhood immunisations, wound care, therapeutic injections.

Cleaning

- Decontaminate reusable equipment with detergent wipe after every use
If a potential COVID-19 cases is accidentally seen in the clinic or during a home visit:
- Use disinfectant solution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine (ppm av cl)
- Rinse and thoroughly dry
- If the item cannot withstand chlorine releasing agents consult the manufacturer's instructions for a suitable alternative to use following or combined with detergent cleaning.

PREMISES

Key considerations:

Ideally cold sites should have:

- a dedicated area to act as a reception and waiting area
- appropriate signs available to indicate where patients should be going
- hard flooring throughout without soft furnishings
- dedicated resuscitation and emergency equipment
- essential equipment ONLY in the consulting rooms such as desk, clinician & patient chair, couch, sharps bin, clinical equipment
- Avoid the use of fans
- PPE stock availability
- ensure essential cleaning products are available e.g. wipes
- Remove non essential items from each clinical room and patient area as possible

WAITING ROOM FOR NON COVID-19 PATIENTS

- Display essential NHS patient information regarding COVID-19 and Hand Hygiene on the premises
- Ensure social distancing between staff and patients of 2 meters
- Promote a 2 metre distance for all waiting patients
- Manage appointments to minimise waiting times
- If the waiting room is full encourage patients to wait safely elsewhere e.g. car
- Limit the number of visitors to the site including carers/relatives
- If accompanied by a carer/relative, they will need to be triaged for symptoms of COVID-19

Personal Protective Equipment

RISK ASSESS every patient and consider the following

- Are there symptoms of covid-19?
- Is there a potential for covid-19?
- Does the patient livid with a symptomatic person
- If 'Yes' consider the following PPE required
- Gloves and Apron (single use only)
- FRSM – 'sessional use' to be determined locally
- Googles/ Visor – if there is a potential risk of splash back . If not indicated as single use only, can be cleaned and reused

FFP3/FFP2 Face masks and Gowns are **only** required for Aerosol Generating procedures such as BIPAP/CPAP/Tracheostomy care requiring deep suction

HOME VISITS

CLINICIANS TO TELEPHONE TRIAGE PRIOR TO ALL HOME VISITS
Is the home visit essential or can it be managed via telephone?

- Advise patient/carer to open the window 30 minutes before you are due to arrive
 - Position yourself at least 2 meters from the patient (where possible)
 - Careful handwashing must be observed before and after home visits
 - Ensure ALL reusable equipment is wiped down after use
- Ensure that 'home visit' bags contain necessary equipment such as:**
- PPE (Gloves, Aprons & Fluid Repellent Surgical Masks (Googles maybe be required if there is a risk of slash)
 - Alcohol Gel /hand hygiene equipment
 - Waste bags
 - Cleaning products for equipment cleaning e.g. detergent wipes
 - (You may consider keeping an FFP3/FFP2 Mask and Gown in your car in the event of seeing someone undergoing a AGP)

UNEXPECTED COVID 19 PATIENT

Staff should withdraw from the room the patient is in, close the door and wash hands thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol gel
Where possible, further communication should be via telephone.
If physical assessment of the patient is required, the healthcare professional should re-enter the room using PPE and keep exposure to a minimum.
(Follow advise on Visiting a Hot patient)
Ensure that all equipment is wiped down after use
If the patient needs emergency medical care in hospital, an ambulance should be requested where appropriate, and the 999 call handler informed of COVID-19 risk

Hand hygiene

Diligent Hand hygiene is essential;

- REMEMBER 'Bare below the Elbow'
- Wash hands for at least 20 seconds or use Alcohol Gel when appropriate
- No rings (except single plain wedding band)
- No wrist
- No watches
- No nail varnish.
- No false nails

