

Management of a suspected case of COVID-19

Does the patient have **EITHER**:

- severe acute respiratory infection requiring admission to hospital with clinical or radiological evidence of pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome **OR**
- acute respiratory infection of any degree of severity, including at least one of shortness of breath (difficult breathing in children) or cough (with or without fever) **OR**
- fever with no other symptoms

Primary care

- isolate the patient (and their belongings or waste) in a side room with the door closed
- do not physically examine the patient
- if consultation/examination had already started, leave the room and wash your hands
- ask the patient to call NHS 111 from their room, on their mobile (use GP surgery landline if mobile unavailable)

Secondary care

- place the patient in respiratory isolation, and PPE is worn by any person entering the room
- seek specialist advice from a local microbiologist, virologist, or infectious diseases physician

Patient phone call

- NHS 111 to advise the patient to stay at home whilst appropriate transport can be arranged

Notify the local PHE Health Protection Team **only if positive***

Consider self isolation at home for patients who are clinically stable if safe transport home can be arranged

YES

Has the patient travelled from a [specified country](#) or area in the 14 days before onset of illness?

NO

Anyone who has had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days should be reported to the local Health Protection Team immediately*

YES

NO

Have they had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the 14 days before onset of illness?

YES

NO

Does the patient have risk factors for avian flu?

YES

NO

Refer to avian flu guidance ([link](#))

Consider alternative diagnoses

Foot note - For further guidance:

* [Link to local Health Protection Team lookup](#)

[Link to background information](#)

[Link to initial investigation of possible cases guidance](#)

[Link to infection prevention and control guidance](#)

[Link to primary care management guidance](#)

[Link to clinical diagnostic laboratories guidance](#)