

# What you need to know about coronavirus testing

This leaflet is for you if you are a kidney patient who has:

- Received B cell depleting-therapies or is on equivalent immunosuppression (eg rituximab)
- Had an organ transplant or is on equivalent immunosuppression (eg immune-mediated kidney disease)
- CKD Stage 4 or 5, or is on dialysis

## When to get a PCR test

You should take a PCR test if you have Covid-19 symptoms (a runny nose, a headache, sore throat, fatigue (mild or severe), sneezing, a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change in sense of smell or taste) or after testing positive on a lateral flow test. This is different advice to the general public. This will give you the best access to new Covid-19 treatments for vulnerable patients.

If you live in England, you should be sent a PCR home test kit to keep at home for this purpose. You can find PCR home test kit instructions on the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk). If you have not received a PCR home test kit or have used it and need a replacement, call 119, selecting the option for NHS Test and Trace for help.

For Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, book your PCR for the earliest opportunity. Visiting a walk-in or drive-in test centre will be the fastest way to get a PCR test.

## What to do if you get a positive PCR result

### Treatment

New antiviral and antibody treatments for Covid-19 are available for people aged 12 and over who have a positive PCR test for the virus and are at highest risk of getting seriously ill. Treatment needs to begin promptly to be most effective, so make sure you take a PCR test as soon as you have symptoms or test positive on a lateral flow test.

If your PCR test is positive you may be contacted directly by a specialist team for treatment, but do not delay seeking advice from your kidney healthcare team as soon as you have a positive result. A doctor or specialist will confirm if you are eligible for treatment.

You can find more information on COVID-19 treatments in the below links:

- **England:** <https://bit.ly/33rq6GQ>
- **Wales:** <https://bit.ly/32asllL>
- **Scotland:** <https://bit.ly/3qFllRX>
- **Northern Ireland:** <https://bit.ly/3fBNOTi>

### Self Isolate

If you test positive for COVID, you should self-isolate according to Government guidelines. Check for the latest information as the rules are changing regularly:

- **England:** <https://bit.ly/3FEYpr2>
- **Wales:** <https://bit.ly/3fBAkag>
- **Scotland:** <https://bit.ly/352ihbe>
- **Northern Ireland:** <https://bit.ly/3fxPE7l>

### Support while self-isolating

- **England:** <https://bit.ly/3Kkl6oe>
- **Wales:** <https://bit.ly/3rrQoB0>
- **Scotland:** <https://bit.ly/3qG9x2L>
- **Northern Ireland:** <https://bit.ly/3rmFJHu>

### For further information and support for kidney patients visit

- [UKKA](#)
- [Kidney Care UK](#)
- [Kidney Research UK](#)
- [Kidney Wales](#)
- [National Kidney Federation](#)
- [PKD Charity](#)

**PROTECT YOURSELF • STAY CAUTIOUS • SEEK ADVICE**

**We continue to recommend you get your coronavirus vaccinations**

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