

Patient Information: COVID – 19 (Coronavirus)

Please note: We make every effort to keep this information up to date but as the guidance about COVID-19 changes rapidly, this information is subject to change. We advise you visit the websites listed at the end of this document or check with centre staff for the most up to date information.

At GenesisCare we are taking every precaution to protect our patients, staff and visitors from the risk of contracting COVID – 19. We will do everything possible to ensure that your treatment and care is not affected.

Some people with cancer are more at risk of becoming seriously ill if they contract the COVID-19 infection including:

- People having chemotherapy, or who have received chemotherapy in the last 3 months
- People having immunotherapy or other antibody treatments for cancer
- People having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors
- People having intensive (radical) radiotherapy for lung cancer
- People who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
- People with some types of blood cancer which damage the immune system, even if they have not needed treatment (for example, chronic leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma)

Those who are at increased risk of severe illness from Coronavirus are advised to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures and good principles of hygiene.

- Wear a mask whilst in our centres, with only exception being if your treatment is hindered due to the mask.
- Wash your hands-on arrival at the centre, and at regular intervals. Wash hands using soap and water for at least 20 seconds and dry thoroughly or use alcohol hand sanitiser and allow to dry fully.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze

- Put used tissues/disposable face masks in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- Keep your distance from other people as much as possible, ideally staying 2 metres apart

What we are doing to protect patients, staff, and visitors

We regularly review the Coronavirus situation and are following the guidance being issued by the NHS and UK Government and updating our plan in line with any changes.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) For Staff

- All GenesisCare staff will wear a mask and visor within the centre and will adhere to social distancing except when they are required to be in close contact to deliver clinical care.
- Clinical staff will wear all necessary PPE (e.g. surgical mask, gloves, apron, and eye protection) whilst they carry out your care.

Testing Staff for COVID – 19

We are routinely testing our centre staff for COVID – 19 to ensure that our centres remain a safe environment for all patients, staff, and visitors.

Testing Patients for COVID – 19

We are undertaking testing for patients at high risk for COVID – 19. The test consists of taking a swab from your throat and nose.

This COVID-19 swab test is an essential component of your treatment and has been introduced to keep you safe and well. Testing positive for COVID-19 does not automatically mean that you cannot continue your treatment, it means we can better schedule your treatment to protect you, other patients and our staff. In this case, we will inform your consultant about the results of your test so that you can decide together the best course of action (continue or delay treatment). We will not inform others of your test results. Our centre staff will always ask for your verbal consent before the test is done and your consent will be documented in your medical notes. If you have any concerns about undergoing the test, please speak to a member of staff about these.

Whenever possible, testing will be done at one of your existing appointments to avoid unnecessary travel to the centre.

Chemotherapy/Immunotherapy/Theranostics

If you are receiving chemotherapy, immunotherapy or Theranostics treatment you will be required to undergo a test for COVID – 19 before starting treatment and before each cycle of treatment. These treatments can suppress your immune system making you more susceptible to infections including COVID – 19. You should self-isolate for the time between your test and treatment.

Minor operations/Procedures

You will also be required to undergo testing before certain minor operations/procedures such as biopsies (ask your nurse or radiographer for more information).

Radiotherapy/Radioisotope treatment

You will be offered testing for COVID – 19 before starting treatment and regularly while on treatment (ask your nurse or radiographer for more information)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) For Patients

All patients and visitors attending a GenesisCare centre are requested to wear a surgical mask or other face covering. If you do not have your own mask, we can provide one. If you feel unable to wear a mask, please let a member of staff know.

Screening

Prior to attending any GC centre for the first time, patients will receive a telephone call from a member of the GC team who will undertake a screening questionnaire to assess the risk that they have been exposed to Coronavirus. Patients deemed to be at risk will be advised to contact NHS111 and appointments may have to be rescheduled until after any self-isolation period.

In the event we are unable to contact an individual prior to attendance at the centre, we ask that all patients and visitors complete a screening questionnaire on arrival.

All patients and visitors to a centre will have their temperature checked upon arrival. If you have a temperature of 37.8°C or above your consultant will be informed. You will be given advice on self-isolation and your appointment(s) may have to be rearranged.

If you or anyone in your household have developed symptoms of Coronavirus, or if you have been contacted by the NHS COVID – 19 track and trace service please notify the centre by phone. Please do not attend the centre.

Awareness

There are information posters throughout our centre(s) explaining the signs and symptoms of Coronavirus and what to do if you experience these. We also have signage reminding everyone to maintain 2 metres social distancing.

Hand Hygiene

Handwashing facilities are available throughout the centre. Please wash your hands upon arrival in the centre and prior to leaving.

Consultation appointments

Your appointment with your doctor may be over the telephone or a video call instead of coming to the centre.

You may be asked to wait in your car until your appointment time.

Travel

Please inform a member of staff if you have returned from an overseas trip in the last 14 days.

Visitors

We want to make every effort to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 and ensure the safety of our patients. We request that you only bring a companion with you if this is absolutely necessary.

Exercise

Do stay active and continue with regular exercise in your own home or outdoors on your own or with members of your household.

Other sources of information

For more information visit our website:

<https://www.genescare.com/uk/covid-19/>

The information for the public about COVID-19 is changing all the time. Please visit the official Government and NHS website for up to date information and advice:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>