

Having an operation during the coronavirus pandemic



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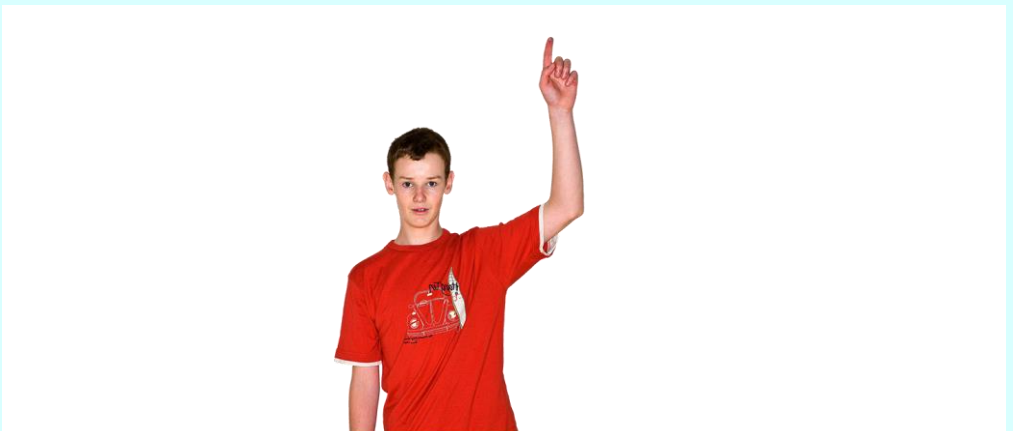
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Coronavirus is a virus that makes people ill.

Pandemic means lots of people have the virus.



Some people will need an operation during the coronavirus pandemic.



Some things have changed at the hospital because of the virus. Staff will do everything they can to keep you **safe**.



If you need an operation during the coronavirus pandemic, you will have lots of questions.

This booklet will help you. 3

Having an operation

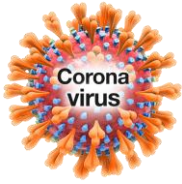
People usually need an operation because they are ill or hurt and need to get better.

Staff will do everything they can to keep people safe. Most people who have an operation get better quickly and go home.

There is always a small risk of becoming very ill or dying from having an operation.

Most people who have an operation will not get coronavirus at the same time.





Having an operation **and** catching the virus at the same time



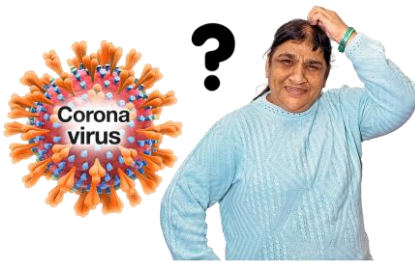
If you have an operation **and** get coronavirus around the same time, the risk of getting very ill is much higher.



If this happens, one in two patients will have serious breathing problems. One in four patients can even die.



Not everyone who has an operation and gets coronavirus will die or get very ill.



Deciding about having an operation during the coronavirus pandemic



Some people need their operation quickly and cannot wait.



Some people will be able to wait longer for their operation until there is less risk of coronavirus.



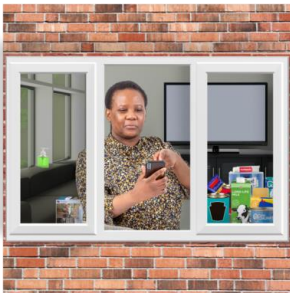
Your surgeon and healthcare team will help you make the right decision about when to have your operation.



If you have an operation during the coronavirus pandemic, you and the people around you should do everything you can to make sure you do not catch coronavirus around the time of your operation.

Before your operation, you may need to:

- Have a swab test in your mouth and nose.
- Have a scan to test for the virus.
- Stay at home without visitors.
This is called 'self-isolating'.



The hospital will choose a **safe** time for the operation and tell you what to do.



During your hospital visit

Hospital staff will keep you **safe**.

Your doctors and nurses will tell you about your operation.

You can ask anything you want to know. If you are asked to do something you cannot do, please ask for help.

- Staff can wear masks, visors and gloves to help stop the virus spreading.
- Patients with the virus will be kept away from patients without the virus.
- If you get the virus **before** your operation, it can happen later, when you are better.

After your operation

You may not be allowed visitors.



You can go home when you are better.

You may need to stay at home without visitors (self-isolate).



After you go home, the doctor may phone or video call to check how you are.



You can ask anything you want to know.

Things you can do to stay **safe**



- You can **wash your hands** often.



- You can wear a **mask**.



- You can **ask** anything you want to know.



- You can ask family, friends and carers for **help**.

If you are asked to do something you cannot do, **please ask for help.**

The hospital can try to help you make changes to the way they usually do things, so that you can have treatment.



Things you want to ask your doctor:

Other things to check: _____

Before my operation, should I self isolate? _____

If yes, for how long? _____

After my operation, should I self isolate? _____

If yes, for how long? _____

Will I need to self-isolate within my social care setting? _____

Can someone come with me for my operation? _____



For more information **about coronavirus and surgery**,
you or your carer can visit:

<http://nihrglobalsurgery.org/surgeryduringcovid>

For information **about your own operation**,
please talk to your doctor.

For the latest **coronavirus advice** please visit:
<https://www.keepsafe.org.uk/>

For help with reasonable adjustments, please contact the
Community or Hospital Trust **Learning Disabilities Service**.

With thanks to CovidSurg Patient Advisory Groups and photosymbols.com



The Association of Coloproctology
of Great Britain and Ireland



Queen Mary
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