

What will happen if I have to
have an operation during
the coronavirus pandemic?



This booklet will help explain:

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Coronavirus is a virus that makes people poorly. 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.



If you need an operation, you will have lots of questions.

This booklet will help you.



People who have coronavirus may have:

- a cough or sore throat
- a fever
- a change to their sense of smell or taste
- or find it more difficult to breathe.

Coughs and sneezes spread the virus more.

Most people will start to feel better within 7 days.

Some people get more unwell and need to go to hospital.



What will happen if I have an operation **and** catch the virus?



If you need an operation and get coronavirus, it can make you even more poorly.



Some patients will have breathing problems or sometimes even die. Die means they stop breathing, talking, moving



But most patients will have their operation without getting the virus.

What will I have to do **before** my operation?



- Have a swab test in your mouth and nose.



- Or 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.

What will happen during my 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.



- 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 your operation can happen later, when you are better.

What will happen after my operation?



You may not be allowed visitors.



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.



How can I 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.



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/>

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