

Patient COVID-19 screening

It is important to establish each patient's COVID-19 status before confirming an appointment. If it is essential that the patient is accompanied by a parent, carer or comforter, then that person should also be screened at this point.

The symptoms listed in the latest NHS case definition of COVID-19 are:

- new continuous cough,
- new fever/high temperature,
- new loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste (anosmia).

👉 Before scheduling an appointment, assess the patient (and any essential accompanying person) by asking the following questions, and record the response(s):

- Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 7 days?
- Are you waiting for a COVID-19 test or the results?
- Do you have any of the following symptoms:
 - New, continuous cough*;
 - High temperature or fever;
 - Loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste?
- Do you live with someone who has either tested positive for COVID-19 or had symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?

* A new, continuous cough means coughing for longer than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours. If the patient usually has a cough, it may be worse than usual.

- 👉 If the patient answers '**NO**' to **ALL** of the questions, assign the patient to Group A.
- 👉 If the patient answers '**YES**' to **ANY** of the questions, assign the patient to Group B. Patients meeting Group B criteria should not attend your practice.

Note that a patient who has recovered from COVID-19, or who has completed a period of self-isolation, is classified as a Group A patient.

According to [NHS Inform](#), a person is considered to be recovered from COVID-19 infection when they meet all of the following criteria:

- It has been at least 7 days since the onset of the COVID-19 symptoms;
- They no longer have a high temperature.

N.B. A cough may persist for several weeks in some people, even though the coronavirus infection has cleared. The loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste may also linger. According to the CMO letter (18 May 2020) a person with a persistent cough and/or loss of sense of smell or taste but no other symptoms does not need to continue to self-isolate for more than 7 days.