



When you have an operation your surgeon will talk to you about any risks there might be. At the moment there are more risks because of coronavirus.



We are doing everything we can to make sure the risk of you getting coronavirus while you are in hospital is low.



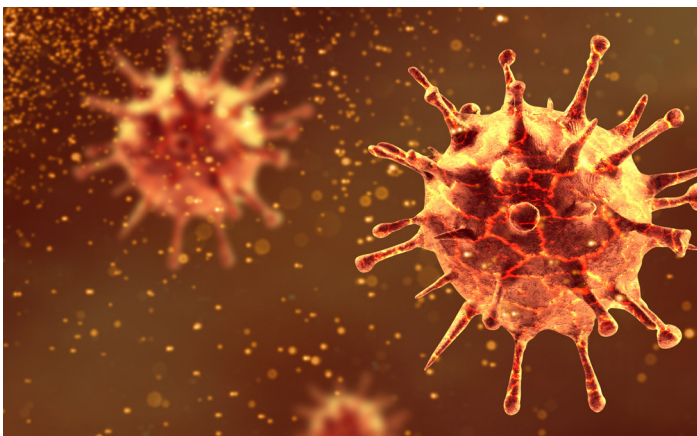
If you are at risk of getting seriously ill if you catch coronavirus, we will make sure you are looked after in a separate area.



The hospital is being cleaned regularly and all staff are washing their hands often.



Some staff will be wearing personal protective equipment (PPE). This may include gloves, aprons, masks, eye protection and gowns.



This is to keep you and them safe and to help stop the spread of coronavirus.

Before your operation



You might be asked to self-isolate before your operation. Self-isolation is staying at home and not having any contact with anyone. This will help to stop you getting coronavirus.



We might ask you to have extra blood tests, scans or nose and throat swabs. We may test you for coronavirus.



If we think that you might have coronavirus, your operation will only go ahead if it is an emergency or it needs to be done urgently.



The risk to you will depend on how ill you are with coronavirus.

It will also depend on how serious your condition is that you need the operation for.



This will be different for each patient and your surgeon will talk to you before you go ahead with the operation.



If you do not have symptoms of coronavirus there is still an extra risk to you having surgery.

You could be getting coronavirus but not have any symptoms yet.



There is also a small risk that you could get coronavirus while you are staying in hospital. We are doing everything we can to make sure this doesn't happen though.



We know that coronavirus can be a risk after you have had your operation too. This might mean that you need to be in intensive care or could even cause you to die.



The level of risk is different for everyone and it depends on the operation you are having. It will be higher for major operations.

Your surgeon will talk to you before you decide whether to have your operation or not.

You need to think carefully about the extra risk to you having surgery.



Is there a benefit to having your operation now, or would it be better to wait until the risk isn't as high?

If you have any questions about the risks of coronavirus and your operation then please talk to your Surgical and Anaesthetic Team.