

27 November 2023

IMPORTANT: PERSONAL

Your Community Health Index (CHI) number: <<CHI>>

Dear <<first name>> <<surname>>

Important information about treatments for coronavirus (Covid-19)

Covid lateral flow tests for those eligible for Covid-19 treatments continue to be free of charge in Scotland. Your medical records show you might be suitable for these treatments. These treatments may help you if you develop coronavirus symptoms and a test confirms you have coronavirus. Getting your Covid vaccine is still the best way to protect yourself from the virus, and you can find out more at nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine.

The way you access Covid testing is changing

From 30 November 2023, the gov.uk home ordering portal will no longer fulfil orders of Covid-19 home test kits. Instead, NHS Scotland will fulfil these orders through a new online ordering system. nhsinform.scot/covid19 has instructions for how to access the new portal and has advice on what to do if you test positive. As well as ordering tests online, you can call 0800 008 6587. You should only call this number if you cannot access services online.

Keep a pack of lateral flow tests at home and test if you have coronavirus symptoms

You should keep a pack of lateral flow tests at home. Only use them if you develop symptoms. If you have coronavirus symptoms, you should take a lateral flow test immediately, even if your symptoms are mild. Your test is not complete until you report your result through the online portal which you can access via nhsinform.scot/covid19 or by calling 0800 008 6587 if you cannot report it online. It is important to test and report your result quickly after any symptoms develop because if you need to take a Covid-19 treatment you need to do so quickly after your symptoms start for it to be effective.

Contact your health board as soon as you test positive

If you test positive for coronavirus, contact your local health board to find out if you are suitable for a Covid-19 treatment. Use this number: <<telephone>>. Lines will be open seven days a week, including public holidays. An answering machine and call-back service may be in use. Do not use this number if you are seeking urgent medical advice or have a general query. After contacting the number you will be assessed for your suitability for treatment.

If eligible for treatment, you will be asked about the medicines that you are taking. This is for safety reasons as some medicines can cause serious side effects when taken together.

Please have the list of medicines that you are taking when you call. This includes medicines prescribed by your GP practice or hospital, medicines prescribed privately outside of the NHS, and any medicines bought from a community pharmacy or other shop without a prescription. Remember to also include herbal remedies and vitamin supplements you are taking, as well as medicines that come in patches, inhalers, suppositories, lozenges, gels, ointments, or creams.

The NHS will advise which treatment, if any, is suitable for you. A healthcare professional may recommend an antiviral treatment to be taken orally. Alternatively, you might have to travel to a day clinic at a hospital to receive a treatment called a monoclonal antibody. This is normally given by intravenous infusion (in your vein). You will get instructions on where to get the treatment and how to get there and back home safely.

If a treatment is recommended, you may be asked to take one or more PCR tests to monitor the effectiveness of the treatment. Your healthcare professional will provide you with more information if this is required. More information on Covid-19 treatments is available on nhsinform.scot/covid19treatments, where you will find the latest information.

Yours sincerely



PROFESSOR MARION BAIN
DEPUTY CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER



PROFESSOR ALISON STRATH
CHIEF PHARMACEUTICAL OFFICER

Data Protection Statement

You have been identified from either your GP practice, local Health Board or securely stored national data in order that we could write to you. We want to reassure you that this information has only been shared in a limited way within the NHS in Scotland. We will notify your Health Board that you have been contacted in order that they can provide appropriate support.

More information about how the NHS has used your information:

www.informationgovernance.scot.nhs.uk/covid-19-privacy-statement

Alternative Formats

If you need this letter in easy read, braille or other languages, please email PHS.HealthData@phs.scot or call 0800 111 4000. If you send an email, use the subject line 'translation request' and include the following details about the person who needs the different format: name, address and postcode, CHI number and format or language required.