



Supporting families
affected by primary
and secondary
immunodeficiency

Access to COVID-19 treatments

Updated 28th June 2023

For people living in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland please see the information in the links below:

Scotland: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Treatments | NHS inform](#)

Wales: [COVID-19 treatments | GOV.WALES](#)

Northern Ireland: [Treatments for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | nidirect](#)

In England there have been changes from 27th June in the way people access COVID-19 medicines:

[Treatments for COVID-19 - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

These changes are:

- Access to COVID-19 medicines in England is now under the control of local Integrated Care Boards (ICBs).
- In England, from the 27th June, you will NOT be contacted automatically by NHS England about access to COVID-19 treatments if you register a positive COVID-19 test.
- As soon as you test positive the general advice is to contact your GP practice, NHS 111 or hospital specialist as soon as possible. They will then consider referring you for an assessment for treatment.
- There may also be other local arrangements for accessing the treatments. For more information, [contact your local integrated care board \(ICB\)](#).
- In England patients will no longer be automatically sent lateral flow tests. However, eligible patients can still order them free of charge. Use the NHS [website](#) to order lateral flow tests to keep at home.

Why have arrangements changed in England?

Since December 2021, COVID-19 treatments have been offered through a nationally commissioned service to people who are at the highest risk of becoming seriously ill and test positive in the community. This service was delivered through COVID Medicines Delivery Units (CMDUs), set up under pandemic-specific arrangements.

From the 27th June access to COVID-19 treatments changed and ICBs in England took over these services for their areas. ICBs must provide this access service but the way it is delivered is likely to differ from one ICB to another. Some ICBs may be keeping the CMDU access model for the time being.

If you were previously eligible for COVID-19 medications, you should have received a letter to update you on the changes. This letter does not guarantee treatment as doctors will need to assess you to make sure the treatment is right for you.

Visit <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/patient-letter> for easy read, large print, braille and translated versions for those people that require them.

Eligibility for access to COVID-19 treatments

A summary of the eligible health conditions is provided at www.nhs.uk/CoronavirusTreatments, with more detail provided in the Government's updated [Independent Advisory Group report](#).

If you have one of these health conditions, or are receiving other eligible medicines, you may have received a letter or email from the NHS.

If you think you may be eligible for COVID-19 treatments, but haven't received a letter, you can contact your specialist clinician or GP to discuss if you are in one of the highest risk groups. If a specialist clinician or GP advises that you have one of the health conditions which makes you potentially eligible, then you should follow the advice on the NHS [website](#) to order lateral flow tests to keep at home.

Please note that the eligibility list is different to the list that identified people as 'clinically extremely vulnerable' or those advised to shield. It is also different to the list of conditions that determine eligibility for COVID-19 vaccines.

You do not need to show a letter or email to access COVID-19 treatments.

Access to COVID-19 lateral flow test kits in England

From 27 June 2023, in England patients will no longer be automatically sent lateral flow tests. However, eligible patients can still order them free of charge.

If you think you may have one of the health conditions which means you might be eligible for COVID-19 treatments and you do not have any lateral flow tests, then you should follow the advice on the NHS [website](#) to order lateral flow tests to keep at home.

In England reporting your result is not needed from the 27 June but is still recommended.

In England you will no longer have to report your COVID-19 test result to access an assessment for treatment. However, Immunodeficiency UK would still encourage you report your test result where possible at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> or by calling 119. This will ensure your test result is visible to the NHS, which may support referral and assessment.

In England, you can now use tests purchased from a pharmacy or shop, but you won't be able to report the result from the test. If you get a positive result from a test you've paid for, you need to contact your GP, NHS 111 or specialist to arrange a referral for an assessment for treatment.

In England to be assessed for COVID-19 treatments you will need to contact your GP, NHS 111 or specialist after a positive test, regardless of whether it is a test you have bought from a shop or a free test from Gov.UK or 119.

Arrangements for receiving LFTs will be changing from 1 October 2023 in England

From 1 October 2023, the way you access tests may change. Immunodeficiency UK is unable to provide details on what these arrangements will be at this moment in time. You should check [the NHS Covid-19 treatments website](#) for more information closer to the time.