

Clozapine and blood testing during the Coronavirus outbreak

Clozapine can upset the blood of about two or three people in every hundred people taking it. It can reduce the number of white cells or neutrophils in the blood (called neutropenia or agranulocytosis). This then makes it much harder for your body to fight infections. You must therefore have regular blood tests for as long as you are taking clozapine.

What to do if you are isolated or have suspected/confirmed Coronavirus

We currently advise any patient with suspected Coronavirus or patients who are isolated to continue to take clozapine unless you are told otherwise.

You should contact your team as soon as you are isolated or as soon as Coronavirus is suspected or confirmed as they may need to arrange alternative ways for you to have your blood test and obtain your medication.

What to do if you develop a fever, sore throat or cold/flu like symptoms

Coronavirus is known to cause fever, sore throat and cold -flu like symptoms however these can also be sign that your blood cell counts are falling therefore it is important that you contact your team **before you take your next dose if** experience any of these symptoms. Your team will advise you on what to do, whether you need any extra blood tests and will arrange that directly with you.

If it is the weekend or out of hours, or you are in any way concerned about your symptoms please contact **NHS 111** and make sure that you inform them that you take clozapine.

General advice

It is important to try and limit your chances of getting Coronavirus and follow the NHS advice:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean