



The following information resources have been selected by the National Health Library and Knowledge Service Evidence Virtual Team in response to a request to collate the best available evidence and guidance pertaining to asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic COVID-19 patients who contact or present to a primary care setting and who may be treated at home. The resources are listed in our estimated order of relevance to practicing healthcare professionals confronted with this scenario in an Irish context. In respect of the evolving global situation and rapidly changing evidence base, the Evidence Team has provided link-outs to continually updating sources of information rather than prescriptive or static statements of evidence; it is therefore advised to use the hyperlinks in this document to ensure that the information you are disseminating to the public is the most current, valid and accurate.

Health Protection Surveillance Centre

@HPSCIreland

- [**COVID-19: Telephone Risk Assessment and Testing Pathway for Mildly Symptomatic Patients Who Phone General Practice.¹**](#)

Provides clear guidance on what GPs should do when a patient phones with suspected COVID-19.

- [**COVID-19: Risk Assessment for Patients Who Physically Present to General Practice.²**](#)

Provides GPs with a risk assessment when a patient presents with suspected COVID-19.

BMJ Best Practice

@BMJBestPractice

- [**COVID-19.³**](#)

Comprehensive topic review including background information on epidemiology and aetiology, guidance on diagnosis, management and follow-up, and a patient information leaflet.

¹ Health Protection Surveillance Centre. "Risk Assessment for Patients Presenting to General Practice and Healthcare Settings Other Than Receiving Hospitals." <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/algorithms/COVID-19%20Risk%20Assessment%20and%20Management%20of%20mildly%20symptomatic%20patients%20v2.0.pdf>. [Accessed 06 March 2020].

² Health Protection Surveillance Centre. "Risk Assessment for Patients Presenting to General Practice and Healthcare Settings Other Than Receiving Hospitals." <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/algorithms/COVID-19%20Risk%20Assessment%20Primary%20Care%20v6.0.pdf>. [Accessed 06 March 2020].

³ BMJ Best Practice. "COVID-19." BMJ Best Practice. <https://bestpractice.bmj.com/topics/en-gb/3000168/>. [Accessed 06 March 2020].



Public Health England

@PHE_UK

- **[COVID-19: Interim Guidance for Primary Care.](#)⁴**

6-page document providing guidance for primary care including definition, symptoms, prevention and home treatment for people with a strong suspicion of infection with COVID-19.

- **[COVID-19: Guidance for Health Professionals.](#)⁵**

Information on COVID-19, including guidance on the assessment and management of suspected cases.

NHS England

@NHSEngland

- **[Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Standard Operating Procedure: General Practice.](#)⁶**

Includes background, generic principles for primary care settings, the COVID-19 standard operating procedure, post-transfer actions and recommended steps to underpin practice resilience and the continuity of services while at the same time protecting patients, primary care staff and the public.

Health Protection Scotland

- **[Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Guidance for Primary Care.](#)⁷**

Advice on the management of patients with clinical features and a travel history consistent with COVID-19.

World Health Organization

@WHO

- **[Home care for patients with suspected novel coronavirus \(nCoV\) infection presenting with mild symptoms and management of contacts.](#)⁸**

A rapid advice note on the provision of safe care at home to patients with suspected COVID-19 presenting with mild symptoms and public health measures relating to the management of asymptomatic contacts.

⁴ Public Health England. COVID-19: Interim Guidance for Primary Care. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wn-cov-guidance-for-primary-care>. [Accessed 06 March 2020].

⁵ Public Health England. COVID-19: Guidance for Health Professionals. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>. [Accessed 06 March 2020].

⁶ National Health Service (England). "Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Standard Operating Procedure: General Practice." <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/20200305-COVID-19-PRIMARY-CARE-SOP-GP-PUBLICATION-V1.1.pdf>. [Accessed 06 March 2020].

⁷ Health Protection Scotland. "Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance for Primary Care." <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-guidance-for-primary-care/>. [Accessed 06 March 2020].

⁸ World Health Organization. Home care for patients with suspected novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection presenting with mild symptoms and management of contacts. Updated February 4, 2020. [https://www.who.int/publications-detail/home-care-for-patients-with-suspected-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-presenting-with-mild-symptoms-and-management-of-contacts](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/home-care-for-patients-with-suspected-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-presenting-with-mild-symptoms-and-management-of-contacts). [Accessed 06 March 2020].



Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

@CDCgov

- **[Interim Guidance for Implementing Home Care of People Not Requiring Hospitalization for 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\).](#)⁹**

Interim guidance on the coordination of home care and isolation of people with confirmed or suspected 2019-nCoV infection.

- **[Interim guidance for persons who may have 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) to prevent spread in homes and residential communities.](#)¹⁰**

Interim guidance that may help to prevent 2019-nCoV from spreading among people in homes and communities.

COVID-19 TOPIC REVIEWS AND EMERGING LITERATURE

Cochrane Library

- **[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Infection Control and Prevention Measures.](#)¹¹**

A special collection on COVID-19 focusing on infection control and prevention measures: physical interventions to interrupt or reduce the spread of respiratory viruses, interventions to improve hand hygiene compliance in patient care, improving adherence to standard precautions for the control of healthcare-associated infections, personal protective equipment for preventing highly infectious diseases, and behavioural interventions to improve use of respiratory protective equipment.

LitCovid

- **[LitCovid.](#)¹²**

A curated literature hub collating up-to-date scientific research about the 2019 novel Coronavirus. Provides central access to the emerging international literature on COVID-19.

⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Interim Guidance for Implementing Home Care of People Not Requiring Hospitalization for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). Updated January 31, 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-home-care.html>. [Accessed 06 March 2020].

¹⁰ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Interim guidance for persons who may have 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) to prevent spread in homes and residential communities. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html#First_heading. [Accessed 06 March 2020].

¹¹ Cochrane Library. "Coronavirus (COVID-19): Infection Control and Prevention Measures." <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/collections/doi/SC000040/full>. [Accessed 06 March 2020].

¹² National Library of Medicine. "LitCovid." <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/research/coronavirus/>. [Accessed 06 March 2020].

UpToDate

- **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).**¹³

... from section "Management: Home Care"

"Home management may be appropriate for patients with mild infection who can be adequately isolated in the outpatient setting. Management of such patients should focus on prevention of transmission to others, and monitoring for clinical deterioration, which should prompt hospitalization."

"Interim recommendations on home management of patients with COVID-19 can be found on the WHO and CDC websites."

- **Patient Education: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) [The Basics]**¹⁴

Provides patient information including: "What is COVID-19?" ; "How is COVID-19 spread?" ; "What are the symptoms of COVID-19?" ; "Should I see a doctor or nurse?" ; "Will I need tests?" ; "Can COVID-19 be prevented?"

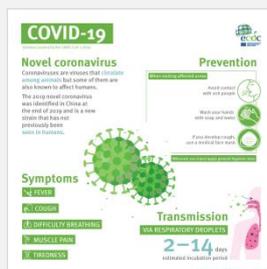
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

@ECDC_EU

- **COVID-19.**¹⁵

Provides overview of COVID-19 including:

- [The latest situation update, epidemiological curve and global distribution.](#)
- [A dashboard with the latest available data.](#)
- [The current risk assessment.](#)
- [Q and A.](#)
- [A COVID-19 infographic with symptoms and prevention measures.](#)



¹³ McIntosh, K et al. "Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)." In: Post, TW (ed.), *UpToDate*. Waltham, MA. <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>. [Accessed 06 March 2020].

¹⁴ UpToDate. "UpToDate Patient Education: Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) [The Basics]." In: Post, TW (ed.), *UpToDate*. Waltham, MA. <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-the-basics>. [Accessed 06 March 2020].

¹⁵ European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. "COVID-19." <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>. [Accessed 06 March 2020].



DynaMed

- **COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus).**¹⁶

Comprehensive topic review including background information, epidemiology, aetiology and pathogenesis, diagnosis, management, prognosis, infection control and patient information.

ClinicalKey

- **Coronavirus: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection.**¹⁷

Comprehensive topic review including diagnosis, treatment options, complications and prognosis, screening and prevention.

Produced by the members of the National Health Library and Knowledge Service Evidence Team.[†] Current as at 06 March 2020. This evidence summary collates the best available evidence at the time of writing. Emerging literature or subsequent developments in respect of COVID-19 may require amendment to the information or sources listed in the document. Although all reasonable care has been taken in the compilation of content, the National Health Library and Knowledge Service Evidence Team makes no representations or warranties expressed or implied as to the accuracy or suitability of the information or sources listed in the document. This evidence summary is the property of the National Health Library and Knowledge Service and subsequent re-use or distribution in whole or in part should include acknowledgement of the service.

The following PICO(T) was used as a basis for the evidence summary.

P Population person location condition/patient characteristic	Person with COVID-19. Asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic. May be treated at home. Contacting or presenting to primary care setting.
I Intervention length location type	Patient information from GP.
C Comparison another intervention no intervention location of the intervention	Other sources of information or misinformation.
O Outcome	Optimal patient outcome. Containment of infection. Dissemination of quality-assured information.

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¹⁶ DynaMed. "COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)." Ipswich, MA: EBSCO Information Services. [Accessed 06 March 2020].

¹⁷ ClinicalKey. "Coronavirus: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection." https://www.clinicalkey.com/#!/content/Clinical_Overview/67-s2.0-0e7112a3-e94d-4136-94ba-cfd9242ea43. [Accessed 06 March 2020].