



YOUR QUESTION

What is the best evidence for home management of COVID-19?

What is the best evidence currently?

If there are patients with only mild illness and without underlying chronic conditions, providing care at home may be considered as long as they can be followed up and cared for by family members. A trained healthcare worker should conduct an assessment to verify whether the residential setting is suitable for providing care. Considerations for care at home include whether:

- The patient is stable enough to receive care at home.
- Appropriate caregivers are available at home.
- There is a separate bedroom where the patient can recover without sharing immediate space with others.
- The patient and other household members have access to appropriate PPE: at a minimum, gloves and facemask.

The patient and other household members should adhere to the following recommendations:

- [Patient] Stay in a well-ventilated single room with open windows and an open door
- Limit movement of the patient in the house and minimise shared space
- [Patient] Sleep in a separate bed and use a separate toilet if possible
- No visitors allowed
- Perform hand hygiene after any type of contact with the patient or immediate environment
- [Patient] A medical mask should be provided and worn as much as possible
- Caregivers should wear a medical mask that covers their mouth and nose when in the same room as the patient
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched in the room where the patient is being cared for on a daily basis
- [Patient] Avoid direct contact with animals
- [Patient] Drink plenty of water during the day

Patients will need to self-isolate at home and manage their symptoms until they have had no fever for 5 days and it has been 14 days since they first developed symptoms.



SOURCES*

Produced by the members of the National Health Library and Knowledge Service Evidence Team.† Current as at 26 March 2020. This rapid evidence review 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	PATIENTS WITH COVID-19 WHO DO NOT NEED HOSPITALISATION
I Intervention length location type	HOME MANAGEMENT
C Comparison another intervention no intervention location of the intervention	
O Outcome	

Resources consulted: WHO, ECDC, HPSC, BMJ Best Practice, NHS Inform, UpToDate, Medline, Web of Science Google Scholar, Twitter and Google.

The following search strategy was used:

"covid-19" OR coronavirus OR "wuhan virus" OR "2019-ncov" OR "severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2" OR "2019 novel coronavirus" OR "2019 new coronavirus" AND "home management" OR "home-management" OR "home-care" OR "homecare" OR "home care"

† Ronan Hegarty, Librarian, Naas General Hospital [Author]; |Brendan Leen, Regional Librarian, HSE South, St. Luke's General Hospital, Kilkenny [Editor]

