

Important Patient Information about Corona Virus for those seeking Fertility Treatment

Introduction

As we emerge from the Corona Virus pandemic we have changed the information we give you about Corona Virus and how it may still affect your fertility treatment.

For further information on corona virus in general including a list of symptoms please visit the NHS and Government websites for the most up to date information. The links are included at the end of this leaflet.

Reducing of the risk of catching and spreading corona virus

To protect our patients and staff you MUST NOT enter the department if you are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, even if this is unconfirmed. If you do, then you may be asked to leave and we will rebook your appointment for another day.

You are strongly advised to avoid social situations and contact with COVID symptomatic individuals in the run up to your treatment. Patients or partners who become symptomatic of COVID cannot attend the fertility unit and if you test positive for COVID your treatment will be abandoned.

We may ask you to wear a face covering in our healthcare setting (unless you are exempt) if this is in line with Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust guidance at the time. Masks are available for you to wear to your appointments if you wish to ask for one.

It is good hygiene practice to thoroughly wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water and not to touch your face to help prevent the spread of infection. Please wash your hands before and after every appointment.

Do we need to test or self-isolate before treatment?

We are not routinely swabbing patients before treatment but we may ask you to be swabbed and tested if we believe you may be infected.

We are not currently asking people to self-isolate before treatment but advise you to limit social contact and avoid symptomatic individuals to help avoid infection that might disrupt your treatment.

The fertility unit follows Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust guidance on self isolation and testing and this may be subject to change.

What happens if we develop corona virus symptoms during treatment?

You must not attend the fertility unit if you have symptoms of coronavirus (as listed by the NHS). If you or your partner develop symptoms during the course of your treatment, your treatment is likely be abandoned unless we can confirm, by PCR test, that you do not have the virus. Be aware that treatment may also have to be postponed if you are unable to attend your appointments because you have symptoms.

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Patients funding their own treatment must be aware that if treatment is abandoned/postponed then appointments that have already taken place and medication that have been delivered must still be paid for and cannot be refunded. Unused medication can be used during your next cycle if stored correctly. The rest of your treatment payment will be held in credit for next time.

If you develop symptoms after egg collection but before your scheduled embryo transfer your embryos will be frozen for embryo transfer at a later date.

The clinic has the right to refuse to continue treatment if we suspect you have symptoms of COVID-19 and to refuse future treatment if we believe you have deliberately concealed symptoms and therefore put others at risk.

Corona Virus during pregnancy

You can read the most up to date information using the link at the end of this document for The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG).

Higher Risk Patients

People with certain conditions (e.g. diabetes, high blood pressure and those requiring immunosuppressant drugs) are deemed to be at higher risk of having complications if they contract corona virus. Please ensure you inform clinic staff if you have any of the health conditions listed by the NHS that may make you more vulnerable to this corona virus.

If you have previously had confirmed or suspected COVID which continues to affect you please let staff know for our records.

Pregnancy and the Covid Vaccination

Information about Pregnancy and the COVID vaccination can be found on the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) website and the FAQ page. The links are available below.

Useful links:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/coronavirus-pregnancy/>

[COVID-19 vaccines, pregnancy and breastfeeding \(rcog.org.uk\)](https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/coronavirus-pregnancy/covid-19-vaccines-pregnancy-and-breastfeeding)

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