



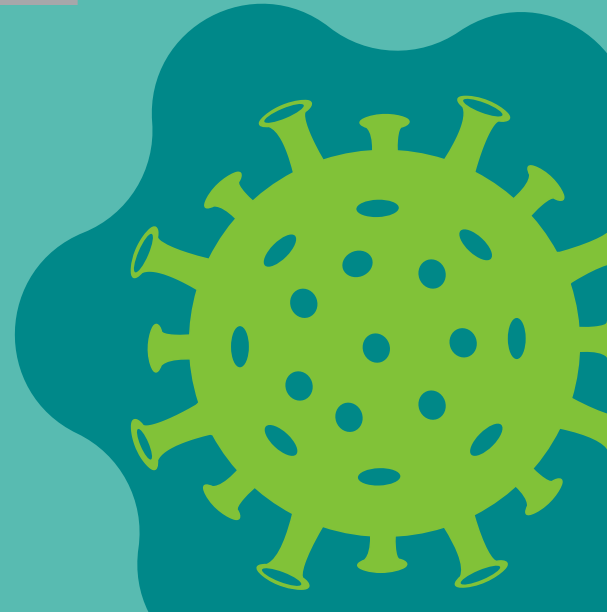
Centre for
Perioperative Care

My operation and coronavirus

Sometimes, if you are poorly, you might need to come to hospital for an operation to make you better. You might have been to hospitals for operations before or this might be your first time.



Things are a bit different in hospitals at the moment while the doctors and nurses try to keep everyone safe from a virus. Viruses (sometimes called germs or bugs) are things that can make people poorly. There is one particular virus they are worried about at the moment – it is called coronavirus, you've probably heard of it.



These are some of the things you can expect when you go to hospital:

One adult can come to hospital with you. If you have a brother or sister they will have to stay at home, but you can speak to them on the phone.



Before you come to hospital you will need to have a swab. This is where a soft stick goes into your nose and mouth (throat) to check for the virus. It might feel a bit ticklish.



When you come to hospital the nurses, doctors and other people who work there might look a bit different. They might be wearing a mask over their face and gloves and an apron. Some of them might even be wearing goggles or a visor (face shield). This can look a bit strange, but it is just to try and stop the virus from making people poorly. You can talk to the doctors and nurses just like you would normally.

Your mum, dad or carer will also need to wear a mask when they're in the hospital (except when they're with you by your bed).

A very important thing for you to remember is to wash your hands with soap and water lots of times during the day. It is extra important to wash your hands after you use the toilet, if you sneeze or cough or before eating. This will help stop all germs, especially coronavirus.



Please ask your mum, dad or carer or the nurses and doctors if you want to know anything else.

You can find out more information about having an operation with an anaesthetic on the RCoA website at: bit.ly/RCoAPICPC.

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