

## COVID-19 and your cancer referral: Keeping you safe!

Dear Patient

Your doctor has referred you for a specialist opinion, as your symptoms might be due to cancer. Your local NHS is here to care for you and it is very important that you have the right tests as soon as possible.

**All clinics and tests now take place well away from areas where patients with COVID-19 are treated, and is as safe as possible.**

### What happens next?

A specialist will look at your GP's letter, and decide the best way to start your care - this is called *triage*.

You may be offered a telephone, or face to face appointment, to discuss your symptoms in detail. This should be within a few weeks of seeing your GP. If you have not heard after four weeks, please let your GP know.

Your first appointment may be for a scan or test, before you have a consultation.

It is VERY important to keep appointments to make sure that that you get a proper diagnosis and any treatment you may need.

Your first appointment may be offered again if you do not attend, but if you miss a second time, your referral will be returned to your GP.

If urgent investigation is not thought to be needed, the specialist will ask your GP to refer you to a routine clinic. If your symptoms change, you should go back to your GP.

We understand that you may have worries about going to a hospital at present, but please rest assured it is safe for you to do so. Your GP feels that your tests should not be delayed so please attend the appointment that is booked for you. For further information on how the hospital is keeping patients and visitors safe please visit:

<https://www.uhb.nhs.uk/coronavirus-public>

Please *help us to help you* by keeping your appointments.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Richard Mendelsohn

**Chief Medical Officer  
Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group**