**Covid-19 and your information - Updated on 24th April 2020**

**Supplementary privacy note on Covid-19 for Service Users**

This notice describes how we may use your information to protect you and others during the

Covid-19 outbreak. It supplements our main Privacy Notice which is available <https://www.villagemclittleborough.nhs.uk/website/P86608/files/VMC%20Privacy%20Notice.pdf>

The health and social care system is facing significant pressures due to the Covid-19

outbreak. Health and care information is essential to deliver care to individuals, to support

health and social care services and to protect public health. Information will also be vital in

researching, monitoring, tracking and managing the outbreak. In the current emergency, it

has become even more important to share health and care information across relevant

organisations.

Existing law which allows confidential patient information to be used and shared

appropriately and lawfully in a public health emergency is being used during this outbreak.

Using this law, the Secretary of State has required NHS Digital; NHS England and

Improvement; Arm’s Length Bodies (such as Public Health England); local authorities; health

organisations and GPs to share confidential patient information to respond to the Covid-19

outbreak. Any information used or shared during the Covid-19 outbreak will be limited to the

period of the outbreak, unless there is another legal basis to use the data. Further

information is available on gov.uk [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-notification-of-data-controllers-to-share-information?utm_source=d05aa30e-95d2-48e3-93e0-0a696c35bd3c&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate) and some FAQs on this law are available [here](https://www.nhsx.nhs.uk/key-information-and-tools/information-governance-guidance/COPI-notice-FAQs)

During this period of emergency, opt-outs will not generally apply to the data used to support

the Covid-19 outbreak, due to the public interest in sharing information. This includes [National Data Opt-outs](https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/). However, in relation to the Summary Care Record, existing choices will be respected. Where data is used and shared under these laws, your right to have personal data erased will also not apply. It may also take us longer to respond to Subject Access requests, Freedom of Information requests and new opt-out requests whilst we focus our efforts on responding to the outbreak.

In order to look after your health and care needs, we may share your confidential patient

information including health and care records with clinical and non-clinical staff in other

health and care providers, for example neighbouring GP practices, hospitals and NHS 111.

We may also use the details we have to send public health messages to you, either by

phone, text or email

During this period of emergency, we may offer you a consultation via telephone or videoconferencing. By accepting the invitation and entering the consultation you are consenting to this. Your personal/confidential patient information will be safeguarded in the same way it would with any other consultation.

We will also be required to share personal/confidential patient information with health and

care organisations and other bodies engaged in disease surveillance for the purposes of

protecting public health, providing healthcare services to the public and monitoring and

managing the outbreak. Further information about how health and care data is being used

and shared by other NHS and social care organisations in a variety of ways to support the

Covid-19 response is [here](https://www.nhsx.nhs.uk/key-information-and-tools/information-governance-guidance/how-data-is-supporting-covid19).

NHS England and Improvement and NHSX have developed a single, secure store to gather

data from across the health and care system to inform the Covid-19 response. This includes

data already collected by NHS England, NHS Improvement, Public Health England and NHS

Digital. New data will include 999 call data, data about hospital occupancy and A&E capacity

data as well as [data provided by patients themselves](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-status-checker). All the data held in the platform is

subject to strict controls that meet the requirements of data protection legislation.

In such circumstances where you tell us you’re experiencing Covid-19 symptoms we may

need to collect specific health data about you. Where we need to do so, we will not collect

more information than we require, and we will ensure that any information collected is treated with the appropriate safeguards.

We may amend this privacy notice at any time so please review it frequently. The date at the

top of this page will be amended each time this notice is updated.