
**ST JAMES'S
HOSPITAL**

COVID-19 Privacy Notice

(Supplementary privacy note on COVID-19 for patients/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 on our website and displayed throughout the hospital. If you wish to request a printed copy please contact the Data Protection Office, contact details listed below.

The health and social care system has and 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 is 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 in order to carry out testing and provide vaccinations.

Existing law which allows confidential patient information to be used and shared appropriately and lawfully in a public health emergency is being used in order to facilitate this. Under this legislation those involved in healthcare (Hospitals, GPs etc) are obliged 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 the [HSE website](#).

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 GP practices, hospitals and the HSE. We may also use the details we have to send messages relating to COVID to you, either by phone, text or post.

During this time we may offer you a consultation via telephone or video conferencing. 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.

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.

If you require any further information please contact the Data Protection Office @ 01 410 3021 / dataprotection@stjames.ie