

Durham County Council Supplementary Privacy Statement

We keep our privacy statement under regular review, and we will make new versions available on our privacy notice page on our website.

This notice describes how we may use your information to protect you and others during the Covid-19 outbreak. It supplements our [Corporate Privacy Statement](#).

Covid-19 and Your Information

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; Arms 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 in the [Governments Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) notification to organisations to share information](#) and [Covid -19 FAQ for Health and Care 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; Arms 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

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](#). 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 whilst we focus our efforts on responding to the outbreak.

In order to look after your health and care needs, we may share your health and care records with other health and care providers, for example 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 need to communicate or provide services to you via telephone or video-conferencing. Your personal/confidential information will be safeguarded in the same way it would with any other discussion or meeting.

We will also be required to share personal/confidential 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.

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. 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.

Information may be used for NHS Test and Trace to help fight the virus, this is to ensure that anyone who develops symptoms can be quickly be tested and also to help trace recent contacts of anyone who tests positive for coronavirus and if necessary notify them that they must self isolate to help stop the virus.

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.

Further Information

The [NHSx website](#) provides further information about how personal data is supporting the COVID-19 response.

Please also see the DCC COVID-19 Privacy Notice for further information about the data we collect and how it is processed.

Our Data Protection Officer (DPO) provides help and guidance to make sure we apply the best standards to protecting your personal information. If something goes wrong with your personal information, or you have questions about how we process your data, please contact our Data Protection Officer at DPO@durham.gov.uk or by calling 03000 268050.

If we have not been able to deal with your query or complaint, you can also contact the [Information Commissioner's Office](#):

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745
Fax: 01625 524 510