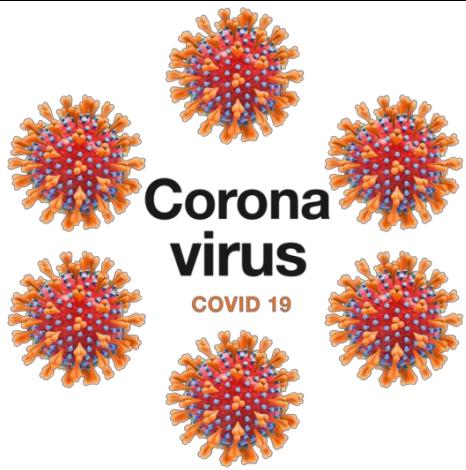


Important advice to staff supporting people with a learning disability or autistic people

Clinical guide for staff supporting patients with a learning disability, autism or both during the coronavirus pandemic

	<p>COVID-19 is a new illness. Lots of people call it coronavirus. It can affect your lungs and your breathing.</p>
 	<p>There are some people who are very ill with coronavirus They are being looked after in hospital by the NHS</p>

 	<p>This is making hospitals very busy but the NHS wants to keep everyone safe.</p> <p>It is really important that everyone gets all of the right care and treatment they need at this time.</p> <p>Lots more staff, including doctors, and volunteers are starting to work in the NHS to help make this happen.</p>
	<p>The NHS has written a document to help all staff know more about supporting people with a learning disability or autistic people.</p>

	<p>1. Staff should make sure they know the difference between your illness and your learning disability or autism.</p> <p>This is to make sure you get the right treatment for your illness.</p>
	<p>2. Staff must follow the information on your hospital passport (if you have one).</p>
	<p>3. Staff should listen to you and your family and any carers who know you well.</p>

	<p>4. The law says that staff must make any changes you need to make sure you get the right care and support.</p> <p>This is called making reasonable adjustments.</p>
	<p>5. Staff should find out the best way to communicate with you.</p> <p>They should use your hospital communication passport if you have one).</p> <p>They should not use jargon or long words.</p>
	<p>6. Staff need to make sure they know what you do when you are in pain or uncomfortable.</p> <p>They should know how this is different from how you are normally.</p>

	<p>7. Staff must involve you in all decisions about your care or treatment unless it is clear that you cannot do this.</p> <p>They must follow the law called the Mental Capacity Act.</p>
	<p>8. Staff should ask for help from other doctors if they need it.</p> <p>This includes working with a learning disability liaison nurse if there is one in the hospital.</p>

	<p>9. Staff should make sure that they support you in the right way if you are upset or scared.</p> <p>They should help you stay calm and relaxed.</p>
	<p>All of these are things you should expect from all health staff (including doctors).</p>