

COVID19-Frequently asked questions regarding Inhalers

Q: I have regular inhalers for my asthma/COPD, how will I be able to order these if my surgery is closed?

Ordering online is the easiest and safest way - e.g. using GP on-line ordering process if already set up or download and use the NHS app. <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/the-nhs-app/>

Via post to the GP practice using the repeat prescription slip.

Drop requests to the surgery (through the letter box or there may be a dedicated box on the wall of the surgery). DO NOT ENTER THE SURGERY.

Please remember most surgeries do not accept requests by phone and the phone lines will be extremely busy.

Q: Should I order extra inhalers to make sure I don't run out?

No. You should order your inhalers in the normal way. There is no need to order extra as your GP surgery will be able to provide repeat prescriptions when needed and pharmacies will be open to supply the medicines.

Q: I have been told not to leave the house for 12 weeks, can I order extra?

No. You can order in the same way that you usually do. If you are unable to get out then you can ask friends or neighbours to help you order and to collect on your behalf.

Q: I was given an inhaler for a chest complaint some time ago, can I order it in case I need it?

No. Inhalers will not manage or prevent coronavirus symptoms, you only need to take regular inhalers if you have a long term condition such as COPD or asthma. If you haven't had an inhaler for some time then it may cause more harm than good if you do catch the virus.

Q: What should I do if I run out of my inhalers?

If you run out of your inhalers and need an urgent supply then you should contact NHS111.

Q: I have been diagnosed with COPD and have been given a rescue pack, should I order a spare?

We recommend that if you have symptoms that may be coronavirus that you contact your surgery and speak to a clinician before starting your rescue pack to make sure that it is safe to do so. The reason for this is that rescue packs are used to treat bacterial infections and will not work against viruses (like corona) and may actually cause more harm than good.

If you are advised to take your rescue pack because your clinician considers that you have a bacterial infection then you can order a replacement.

Q: I have asthma, do I need a rescue pack?

No. There is no evidence that rescue packs required in asthma. You should take your prescribed medication as directed, especially your steroid inhaler if you have one. By taking your preventative inhalers regularly you should keep your asthma under control and reduce the risk of it getting worse.

Q: My asthma/COPD symptoms are getting worse what should I do?

A: Call NHS111 in the first instance. If you are having an acute asthma attack and are having difficulty in breathing you should call 999.

Q: Where can I get up to date, reliable information on coronavirus?

A: The Government website provides regular updates at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Asthma UK also provides helpful information at: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) health advice for people with asthma](#)

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