Further information

Choice and Medication
For more information about clozapine and other mental health medicines please look at the Choice and Medication website: www.choiceandmedication.org/cnwl

Medicines Information Helpline
Patients and carers can contact the Medicines Helpline for any queries about their medication:

0203 317 5090 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

Further information

Clozapine and blood testing during the Coronavirus Outbreak

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Clozapine can upset the blood of about two or three people in every hundred people taking it. It can reduce the number of white cells or neutrophils in the blood (this is called neutropenia or agranulocytosis). This then makes it much harder for your body to fight infections. You must have regular blood tests for as long as you are taking clozapine so that we can check that your blood is healthy.

What to do if you are isolated or have suspected/confirmed Coronavirus

We currently advise any patient with suspected Coronavirus or patients who are isolated to continue to take clozapine unless you are clearly told otherwise. You should contact your mental health team as soon as you are isolated or as soon as Coronavirus is suspected or confirmed. Your team may need to arrange alternative ways for you to have your blood test and obtain your medication rather than coming in to your usual clinic.

What to do if you develop a fever, sore throat or cold/flu like symptoms

Coronavirus is known to cause fever, sore throat and cold or flu like symptoms. However these could also be sign that your blood cell counts are low, so it is important that you contact your mental health team before your next dose if you experience any of these symptoms. Your team will advise you on what to do, whether you need an extra blood test and will arrange that with you. If it is the weekend or out of hours, or you are in any way concerned that you may have Coronavirus please contact NHS 111 and make sure that you inform them that you take clozapine.

General Advice

It is important to try and limit your chances of getting Coronavirus and follow the NHS advice:

- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- Don’t touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.

Ibuprofen

There is currently no strong evidence that ibuprofen can make coronavirus (COVID-19) worse. But until we have more information, take paracetamol to treat the symptoms of coronavirus, unless your doctor has told you paracetamol is not suitable for you or your child.

If you or your child are already taking ibuprofen or another non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) on the advice of a doctor, do not stop taking it without checking first.

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/

Website updated: 17 March 2020