

# Coronavirus (COVID-19)

## Coronavirus testing may soon be available for us all

The well documented test for COVID-19 to establish whether the virus is in your body, starts with a sample being taken from your nose and throat. Usually, this is done by a swab into the back of the throat which is then placed in fluid and sealed. The second part of the test involves a medical professional pushing a thin nasal swab three or four inches along the nasal passages. This will test the fluid that can be expelled through sneezing, coughing and even singing.

Whilst most people will admit this test is uncomfortable, in rare cases it may make some patients faint. If you have a history of fainting at the sight of blood, giving blood or having a vaccination, then it is important that you ensure you are sitting down or even lying down when given the test. (One important point, however, is that fainting or feeling lightheaded may very occasionally be a symptom of the virus not a reaction to the test.)

**Remember that the benefits of this test far outweigh any temporary discomfort.**

**If you are susceptible to syncope (fainting) then wait at least 15 minutes before going home.**

For more information, resources, patient videos and the latest updates in relation to coronavirus (covid-19) and syncope conditions visit our dedicated webpage;

**[www.hearhythmalliance.org/stars/uk/news/coronavirus-information-uk](http://www.hearhythmalliance.org/stars/uk/news/coronavirus-information-uk)  
you can also contact our patient services team via our helpline: 01789 867 503**

