

Frequently Asked Questions

What Is PUI?

If you have been told you are a person under investigation (PUI), you may have COVID-19 symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath, etc.). Or, you may have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Your clinic is waiting on the test results. It is necessary to take precautions until it is known if you are COVID-19 positive or negative.

*What Is a Cohort Facility?

A cohort facility is a dialysis treatment clinic offering a special shift schedule or possibly located somewhere different than where you normally receive your treatments. The cohort facility is set up to provide dialysis treatment for people who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are considered PUI. Cohort facilities provide the same quality dialysis treatments you receive at your regular dialysis facility.

Who Do I Contact If I Have Concerns About Going to a Cohort Facility?

Talk to your dialysis nurse or administrator at your facility if you have any questions about going to a cohort facility.

You can contact your ESRD Network (www.esrdncc.org/ESRDNetworkDirectory) with any grievance you may have related to COVID-19. Examples of grievances may include communication, professionalism, screening, and how information is shared.

Helpful Tips

Here are a few things you can do to help take care of yourself while you are recovering:

- Continue to watch your fluid and potassium. This is something you should always do and it is important to continue doing now. If you have questions about your daily fluid intake, talk to your dietitian.
- Follow your full dialysis prescription. Going to a different facility or changing your shift time may be difficult. You don't want to miss your dialysis session or shorten your treatment time because of these changes.
- Ask your care team about the COVID-19 vaccine for the future.
- Talk to your care team about any of your concerns.
- Start journaling—Write down your thoughts and feelings. Visit www.esrdncc.org/patients and select Mental Health/Well-Being for a journal template.



Scan with your mobile device's camera.

Visit www.esrdncc.com.



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COVID-19: A Positive Test or Under Investigation



Being Prepared



Your dialysis facility may need to make changes with your dialysis schedule if you:

- Test positive for COVID-19.
- Show symptoms for COVID-19.
- Have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

You may have to treat at a different clinic (called a cohort facility*). Or, you may be treated on a different shift while you get better or until it is known that you do not have COVID-19. This is done to prevent the possible spread of COVID-19 to your fellow patients and care team members.

These changes may not be something you expected, especially during a time when you are not feeling well. It might be scary to go to a different facility or change your shift time. Your facility is concerned about your health, and the health and safety of other patients and care team members. No matter the changes, you will continue to receive the same quality of care.

You can also take care of yourself by asking questions to help you prepare.

Here are some questions other patients suggest you ask:

Questions to Ask Your Home Clinic

- How long will I be at the cohort facility or on a different shift?
- Where is the cohort facility located?
- Do I have a choice in which cohort facility to receive treatment if I test positive?
- Is there transportation to help me to get to the cohort facility?
- When is my chair time?
- When will I be able to return to my home clinic?
- Will my home clinic keep my normal time slot available when I return?



Questions to Ask the Cohort Facility

- What are the patient guidelines of this facility?
- How will I meet with my nephrologist while I am in the cohort facility?
- How do I speak with other support staff, such as a social worker or dietitian, while at the cohort facility?

Maintaining Your Emotional Well-Being

This may be a stressful time for you. It is important to care for your emotional health.

Here are some questions to consider:

- Who can I talk to at the cohort facility if I have questions about how I am feeling emotionally?
- What symptoms should I be watching out for?
- Is there an online support group?
- Does the cohort facility have a peer mentoring program?