

Date: 21/05/2024  
Your Ref:  
Our Ref: 8712

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PROTOCOLS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to protocols from the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh

### Question:

- I would be grateful if NHS Lothian could provide relevant information for NHS Lothian or, more specifically, the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh as to the following matters. I appreciate that protocols relating to respiratory matters were likely regularly updated in around March 2020, and different protocols may have been in place. Apologies if the answers to each question are the same. My queries are as follows:
  1. On 16 March 2020, whether Lothian/ERI had a pathway/protocol for the Emergency Department's triage of respiratory presentations? If so, please provide the protocol.
    - a. If there are separate pathways/protocols for suspected COVID-19, I would be grateful for sight of these.
  2. On 18 March 2020, whether Lothian/ERI had a pathway/protocol for the Emergency Department's triage of respiratory presentations? If so, please provide the protocol.
    - a. If there are separate pathways/protocols for suspected COVID-19, I would be grateful for sight of these.
  3. On 20 March 2020, whether Lothian/ERI had a pathway/protocol for the Emergency Department's triage of respiratory presentations? If so, please provide the protocol.
    - a. If there are separate pathways/protocols for suspected COVID-19, I would be grateful for sight of these.

### Answer:

Please see enclosed protocols, this was published on 12/03/2020.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain

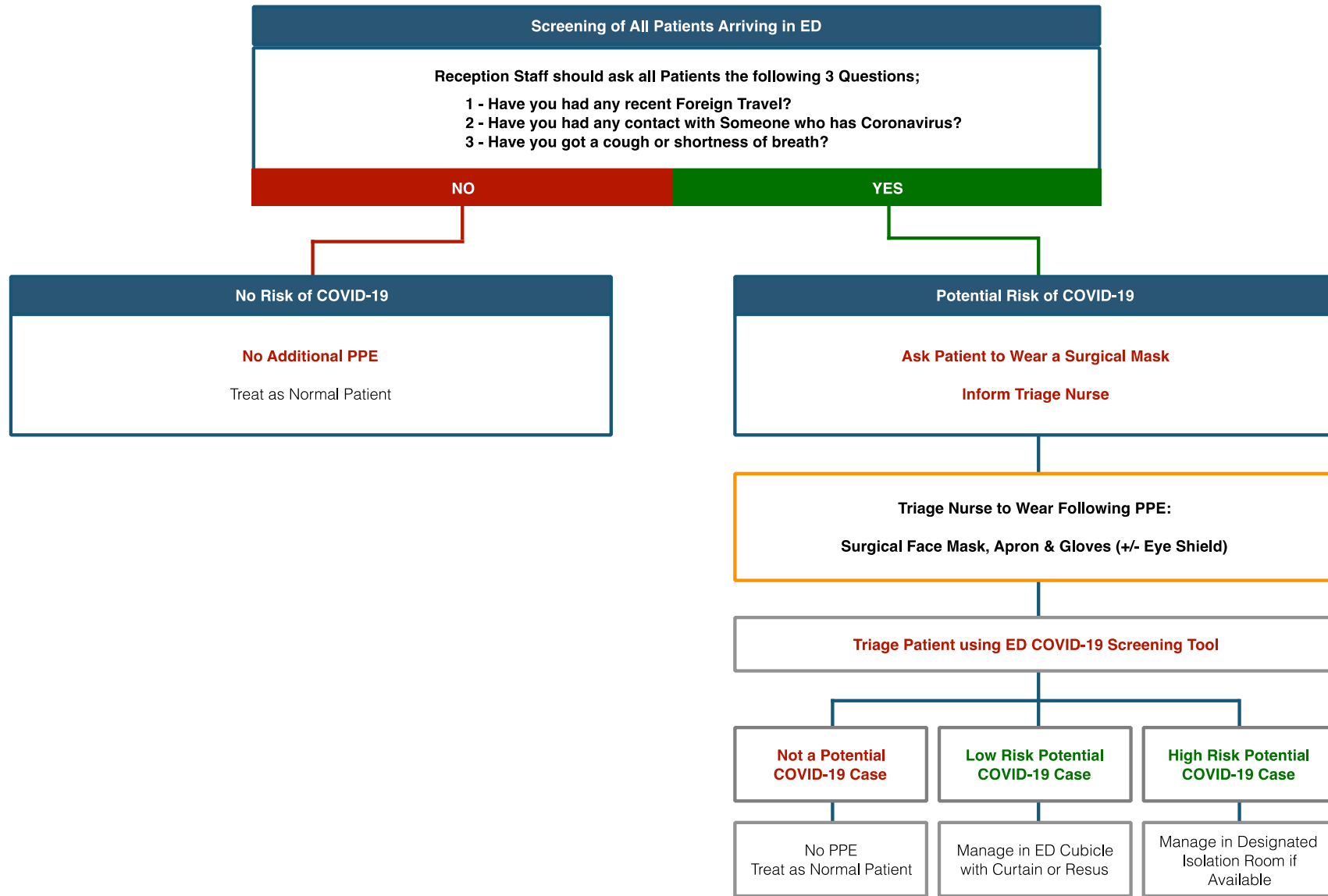
dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal). If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director, Nursing, Midwifery and AHPs**  
Cc: Chief Executive



**Do not keep patients in the ED if they do not absolutely need to be in hospital.  
Seriously consider early signposting to self care & NHS24 if asymptomatic or well.**

