

## Message from Professor Jeremy Chataway:

### COVID-19 Update

Many of you will be concerned at recent developments around the new coronavirus (which can lead to COVID-19, a respiratory disease). While this is a fast-moving situation, I wanted to write to all of the MS-STAT2 patients to reassure you that the trial team (based primarily at University College London, along with our NHS partner hospitals



around the United Kingdom) are monitoring the developments closely, and have already drawn up a comprehensive set of plans to ensure the trial is still delivered seamlessly to the best of our abilities.

The MS-STAT2 trial team are and will continue to review governmental guidance on a daily basis, and ensure your trial care reflects this and other expert guidance from within the UCL team. Your safety is our highest priority at all times.

Please be reassured that Simvastatin is **not an immuno-suppressant** (a drug that suppresses your immune system), and therefore continuing to take simvastatin does not pose any increase in risk to you during the COVID-19 outbreak.

You will remain under the care of your nursing team as previously, so please do not hesitate to voice any health concerns as you normally would. Your local hospital will be in touch directly should any changes to regular contact information be needed.

As this is a fast moving situation, we will keep in touch with people if there are any changes to the current arrangements. We look forward to continuing to deliver a safe and positive study which will add to our understanding of the treatment of progressive MS.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Jeremy Chataway

Chief Investigator for the MS-STAT2 trial, National Hospital for Neurology, UCLH

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**Do you have a question about the trial?** Contact your local NHS hospital, or send to: [UCLH.ms-stat2@nhs.net](mailto:UCLH.ms-stat2@nhs.net)

## How will my trial visits be affected by COVID-19?

- We have considered the practicalities of attending hospital visits during the COVID-19 outbreak. In response, we have developed methods to conduct MS-STAT2 trial assessments remotely (by telephone and other means), particularly in circumstances where it becomes no longer practical to attend your hospital appointment.
- You will not be asked to come to clinic if your NHS team do not feel it is appropriate at this time. We will be working with your local teams on delivery of this approach, including alternative arrangements for trial drug collection. It may also be that you are asked to attend your next visit earlier than scheduled.

## How will assessments be carried out?

- The main assessment on the trial, the Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS), can be calculated over the phone with some questions about your abilities. Also, questionnaires will be emailed out to you or completed over the phone.
- Conducting trial visits by telephone or earlier than anticipated may be needed. This is good practice in circumstances where it is not possible for patients to attend clinic. Normal practice will resume when the trial team consider it appropriate to do so.

## How is the trial going?

Also a quick update on trial progress: we are getting closer to recruiting a sufficient number of patients into trial to be able to answer the research question (whether Simvastatin is able to slow progression of SPMS).

MS-STAT2 is the largest academic trial in Secondary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis that has been conducted to date. Our thanks to all of you involved so far for the efforts to help the MS community.

## Recruitment Update

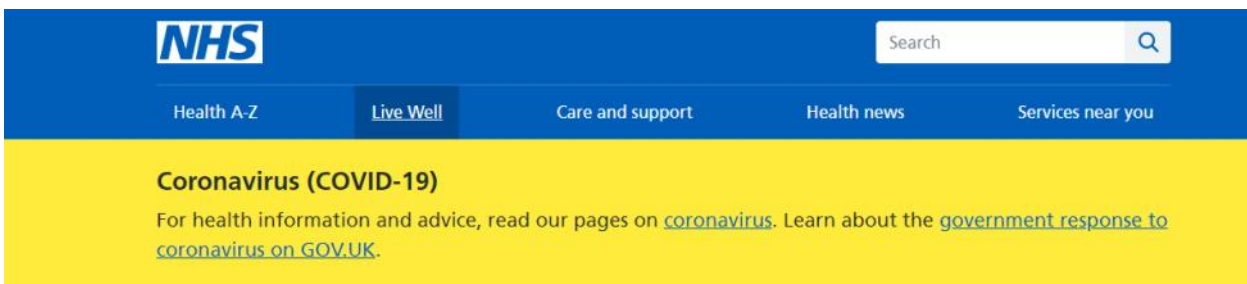




Home > Information & support > Coronavirus and your wellbeing

## Coronavirus and your wellbeing

**Mind Mental Health Charity:** <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>



Home > Health A to Z

## Overview

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

**NHS Information and Guidance:** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

## MS and coronavirus care and support

We've been talking to lots of people in our community about multiple sclerosis and COVID-19. These are some of the questions that crop up the most. We updated this page on Monday 16 March.

We'll be regularly reviewing and updating this page, so keep checking back for the latest information on:

- [MS, coronavirus, social distancing and self-isolating](#)
- [disease modifying therapies](#)

### In this section

#### Care and support

Advanced MS

Newly diagnosed

**MS Society Support:** <https://www.mssociety.org.uk/care-and-support/ms-and-coronavirus-care-and-support>