

Telling the health service about the vulnerability of people with A-T to complications if infected with the Coronavirus COVID-19

If you need to contact 111 because you suspect that someone with AT may have the virus, you must tell them about the AT. If you are not sure what to say, you can read them this statement:

Ataxia telangiectasia (AT) is a rare neurodegenerative condition that affects multiple body systems.

AT is classed as a **primary immune deficiency** and many children and adults with AT have severely **compromised lung function**. Both of these increase their susceptibility to serious infections as do the neurological problems, which affect swallowing and lung clearance.

People with AT have been included in the **Extremely Vulnerable Group**, which is considered **at very high risk of severe illness** from the virus.

If someone with AT is found to have COVID-19 and is showing signs of developing serious illness, further advice can be sought from one of the two specialist A-T centres:

- Nottingham City Hospital (paediatric)
- Royal Papworth Hospital (adults).

For contact details, please contact the AT Society on 01582 760733. Outside office hours, please call and listen to the message.

A more complete list of symptoms follows

- Progressive loss of balance, frequent falls, eventual full reliance on a wheelchair
- Loss of coordination, body tremors that includes sudden, jerky movements
- Poor gross and fine motor control
- Slurred speech and restricted eye movements
- Weakened immune system, leading to vulnerability to infections
- Compromised lung function
- Significantly increased risk of Cancers
- Abnormal liver function and increased risk of diabetes
- Chronic fatigue