

Huntington's disease and COVID-19



**Huntington's
Disease
Association**

For the attention of NHS staff

This letter is to alert you of issues for people with Huntington's disease who present to you with COVID-19 symptoms.

Huntington's disease is an inherited, genetic neuro-psychiatric illness which manifests as a triad of symptoms – motor, psychiatric and cognitive.

During the progression of the disease, people can become increasingly susceptible to chest infections which can lead to pneumonia, the biggest cause of death. People with Huntington's disease are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19.

COVID-19 has been shown to have a higher mortality rate in those with respiratory and cardiac issues. It is therefore essential to investigate the heart and lung function for any people presenting to you with both Huntington's disease and COVID-19.

For the attention of the Police and other Emergency Services

This letter is to alert you of issues for people with Huntington's disease who present to you during your public duties.

Huntington's disease is an inherited, genetic neuro-psychiatric illness which manifests as a triad of symptoms – motor, psychiatric and cognitive.

One of the common physical aspects of the disease is jerky movement that can make the person appear as if they are drunk. Cognitive difficulties can also make understanding slower and speech sometimes slurred.

Due to the cognitive issues caused by Huntington's disease, people with the disease may not adhere to the COVID-19 self-isolation or social distancing measures.

Further information about Huntington's disease can be found on the Huntington's Disease Association's website www.hda.org.uk or by calling us on 0151 331 5444.

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