

# Aspergillosis during construction activities

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Some large scale building projects are currently underway. The construction work will be ongoing and there will be some inconvenience to patients and visitors during this time, for which we apologise.

## General Information

The purpose of this leaflet is to inform patients, relatives, health care workers and those involved in the activities of construction of the risk of aspergillosis during construction work. This leaflet should be considered as introductory information only.

Patients who are undergoing high dose chemotherapy for leukaemia and related illnesses, having bone marrow, stem cell or other transplants, or who are having other forms of therapy which may suppress their immune system, may be at risk of developing infection with this fungus in the lungs or other parts of the body. Healthy adults and children are not at increased risk of infection during construction work.

Aspergilli are fungi that cannot be seen with the naked eye but commonly occur in soil, water and decaying vegetation. They can also live in old buildings or in areas such as ventilation shafts. Many types of *Aspergillus* are found in nature but only a few cause human diseases.

*Aspergillus* may be released into the air during construction/renovation activities. *Aspergillus* can be transported great distances by normal conditions such as air currents and wind. Small pieces of dirt or dust in the air are the main ways that *Aspergillus* travels and causes infection in hospitals. Hospital activities that generate dust such as maintaining the ventilation system, cleaning, brick dust, vacuuming and dry dusting can also allow *Aspergillus* to travel through the air.

## For the patient

During building work every effort will be made to prevent the spread of *Aspergillus*. The medical team who are treating you will be in close communication with builders and the Microbiology/Infection Control Department to make sure that the risk of spreading *Aspergillus* is kept to a minimum. We will tell you if you need to take any special precautions.

## Feedback

We want your visit to be as comfortable as possible. Please talk to the person in charge if you have any concerns. If the ward/department staff are unable to resolve your concern, please ask for our Patient Advice and Liaison (PALS) information. Please be assured that raising a concern will not impact on your care. **Before you leave the hospital you will be asked to complete a Friends and Family Test feedback card.** Providing your feedback is vital in helping to transform NHS services and to support patient choice.

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*our patients... each other... ourselves*

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Responsive communication

Effective and professional

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Paget



The hospital can arrange for an interpreter or person to sign to assist you in communicating effectively with staff during your stay. Please let us know.

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