

FAQs

Q. What is the aim of the Targeted Lung Health Check programme?

A. The aim of the programme is to detect lung cancer and disease early so that people can be treated sooner and more effectively – ultimately saving more lives. Lung cancer often has no symptoms in the earlier stages which can result in it not being found until the later stages when outcomes are less favourable.

Q. What is a Targeted Lung Health Check?

A. The lung health check takes part in two stages. The first is an appointment with a specially trained nurse to assess your risk level. If you are found to be at high risk of having lung cancer you will be invited to have a low dose CT scan so we can capture an image of your lungs and identify if there are any issues which need further investigation or treatment.

Q. Where will lung health checks take place?

A. The first phase will be a check-up which may be by phone, video call or in person. If you are invited to have a CT scan these will be carried out by radiographers on mobile units. The mobile units will be parked in community venues or supermarket car parks which have good transport links for ease of access.

Q. When will appointments be available?

A. Appointments are available Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm, contact the lung health checks team to request a convenient time.

Q. What happens after a lung health check?

A. Should anything be identified either during the discussion with a nurse or from the CT scan, then you will be contacted by telephone or letter with the next steps. If you have any questions you can speak to the staff on site or visit:

<https://www.lutonandthurrocklunghealthcheck.nhs.uk/>

Q. Why is the Targeted Lung Health Check only being offered to smokers/past smokers in a certain age range?

A. The Targeted Lung Health Check is currently being offered to those most at risk of getting lung cancer. Data shows those between the age of 55 and 74 who currently or previously smoked are at a higher risk than others of getting lung cancer. If you display any symptoms or have any concerns about your lung health you should book an appointment to see your GP straight away.

Q. When are the Targeted Lung Health Checks starting?

A. They started in November 2020 for Thurrock and February 2021 for Luton, this will continue for four years.

Q. I'm eligible for the non-emergency patient transport service - will I still be

able to book this for my lung health check appointment?

A. Unfortunately no, as it's not a hospital appointment, but you can contact Community and Voluntary Services [Transport services for the elderly and disabled | Age UK](https://www.transvol.co.uk/) (Thurrock) <https://www.transvol.co.uk/>

Q. Do I have to get undressed if I need a CT Scan?

A. You may need to remove your coat, but you can leave your clothing on.

Q. Can I bring someone along with me to the appointment?

A. A. We have limited space on the CT scanning unit and not many places to wait, we would prefer if you came on to the unit alone – but if you have a carer or need an interpreter, then you can have them with you.

Q. Why isn't it available in my area?

A. The Targeted Lung Health Check Programme is being rolled out across England. The areas with higher lung cancer mortality rates are being prioritised first and new locations will be available from April 2022. If you are worried about any of the below symptoms, please see your GP as soon as possible:

- A persistent cough or change in your normal cough
- Coughing up blood
- Being short of breath
- Unexplained tiredness or weight loss
- An ache or pain when breathing or coughing
- Appetite loss