

Getting a Covid Test in the Children's Department

Information for patients

This leaflet has been written to provide information to parents and older children on the process of getting a Covid swab at The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Getting a Covid Test

You and your child have been asked to have a Covid test because your child is about to have either an elective or emergency admission to the children's department at The Hillingdon Hospital.

The test is quick and involves a swab being taken from you and your child's throat and nose. If your child is under 5-year-old, then an alternative to the swab may be used where a sample of fluid is suctioned from your child's nose.

How long does it take for the results to come back?

Swab results are generally available after 72 hours. If you are having an elective admission you will be contacted prior to the admission if either you or your child's result is positive. If the test was performed due to an emergency admission the results of the test will be communicated to you on the ward or by phone if you have been discharged before the result is back.

What should I do once I have had the test?

To reduce the risk of you or your child contracting Covid before an elective admission you should abide by the government's latest guidance on social distancing and mask wearing.

For inpatients you will have been admitted to either a cubicle or bay. Whilst we await your Covid results we ask that you remain in you allocated area as much as possible and refrain from generally walking around the ward. We also ask that you wear a face mask during the day.

We are currently restricting the visiting to just one resident parent to help prevent the spread of any infections.

What do I do if I become unwell after my test has been performed?

If you or your child are an inpatient, please notify the nurse caring for you that you feel unwell.

If you are awaiting admission and you or your child are unwell you should self-isolate as per the latest government guidance. If you feel you need medical advice, please call the NHS

helpline 111 or use the [NHS 111 online coronavirus service](#). Alternatively seek advice from the government website www.gov.uk

What do I do if my child seems very unwell?

If your child is already an inpatient and you are concerned about your child's condition then please talk to your nurse.

The number of children getting Covid is very low and children and babies will still get other illnesses that can make them very unwell quickly. If you are concerned about your child whilst they are at home it's important to get medical help if you need it.

Urgent advice: Call 111 or your GP surgery if your child:

- is under 3 months old and has a temperature of 38C or higher, or you think they have a fever
- is 3 to 6 months old and has a temperature of 39C or higher, or you think they have a fever
- has other signs of illness, such as a rash, as well as a high temperature (fever)
- has a high temperature that's lasted for 5 days or more
- does not want to eat, or is not their usual self and you are worried
- has a high temperature that does not come down with paracetamol
- is dehydrated – for example, nappies are not very wet, sunken eyes, and no tears when they are crying

Call 999 if your child:

- has a stiff neck
- has a rash that does not fade when you press a glass against it ([use the "glass test" from Meningitis Now](#))
- is bothered by light
- has a seizure or fit for the first time (they cannot stop shaking)
- has unusually cold hands and feet
- has pale, blotchy, blue or grey skin
- has a weak, high-pitched cry that's not like their usual cry
- is drowsy and hard to wake
- is extremely agitated (does not stop crying) or is confused
- finds it hard to breathe and sucks their stomach in under their ribs
- has a soft spot on their head that curves outwards
- is not responding like they usually do, or not interested in feeding or usual activities

Who should I contact if I have a problem or question about the swab?

If you have any questions regarding your child's Covid swab please talk to your allocated nurse if you are an inpatient on Fleming ward or in the Children's Emergency Department. If you are awaiting an elective admission please call The Rainbow Children's Day Care Unit on 01895 279530.

Languages/ Alternative Formats

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format.
Please contact: 01895 279973

Fadlan waydii haddii aad warbixintan ku rabto luqad ama hab kale. Fadlan la xidhiidh
01895 279 973

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਜਾਂ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ
ਕਰਕੇ ਪਤਾ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ 01895 279973 ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ

برائے مہربانی جے تہانوں اے اطلاع کے اور زبان یا انداز وچ چاہی دی اے تے پتہ کرن لئی
رابطہ کرو

தயவுசெய்து, வேற்று மொழிகளில் இத் தகவல்கள், கட்டுமானம்
தேவையெனில், கேளுங்கள்.! தயவுசெய்து 01895 279973
இலக்கத்துடன் தொடர்பு கொள்ளுங்கள்.!

Jeżeli chciałbyś uzyskać te informacje w innym języku, w dużej czcionce lub w formacie
audio, poproś pracownika oddziału o kontakt z biurem informacji pacjenta (patient
information) pod numerem telefonu: 01895 279973.

如果你需要這些資料的其他語言版本、大字体、或音頻格式，請致電01895 279 973 查詢。

إذا كنت تود الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، بالأحرف الكبيرة أو بشكل شريط صوتي، يرجى
الاتصال بالرقم التالي 01895279973.