

Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing for parents/carers

This leaflet explains why we are doing rapid coronavirus (lateral flow device) tests on the parents/carers of children who are admitted to Evelina London Children's Hospital.

We are taking many extra steps to help prevent the spread of coronavirus, to make sure you, your child, and our staff are safe while visiting Evelina London.

We will be testing parents/carers using a rapid coronavirus test, which gives results in about 20 minutes. This means we can identify anyone who may have the infection without having any symptoms, and we take the right action to keep you, your child, and others in our hospital safe.

While in hospital, these rules must be followed at all times:

- Parents/carers must follow strict infection control measures by wearing face masks and regularly handwashing.
- Parents/carers must report to your child's nurse immediately if you develop any coronavirus symptoms while in hospital.
- If any symptoms appear when you are at home, please **do not** come to hospital. Call the hospital and let your child's nurse know so that we can support you and advise you what you need to do.

Who will be tested?

If your child is going to be staying on one of our wards or units, the parent/carer who is coming with the child will be tested.

The test will be done while you are in the hospital, either before your child is admitted, or before any procedures go ahead.

How will you be tested?

We will hand you a testing kit and show you a video on how to use it. It is a quick and easy nose swab that you will be able to take and test yourself. A member of staff will watch while you do the test, or will test you themselves, and can answer any questions you have.

What will happen if your result is negative?

If your test is negative and your household is not currently self-isolating, you will be admitted in an appropriate area of the hospital depending on your child's needs.

What will happen if your result is positive?

If your test result is positive, we will need to do a second, different type of test. This test will be sent to a lab for analysis to confirm the result. These results can take up to 24 hours to come back.

While you wait for the results of this test, Government advice is that you self-isolate at home. We will ask you to arrange for a second carer to come and be with your child so you can return home.

The second carer will also need to take a rapid coronavirus test when they arrive. You should be using private transport to go home. Please let us know if this is not possible.

What happens if you are already self-isolating?

If your rapid test comes back negative, but you are currently self-isolating (because someone in your household has coronavirus, or you are a contact of someone who has coronavirus), you will be admitted into a safe area of the ward. This may be a cubicle or side room and means you can continue to self-isolate from others, while being able to stay with your child. While here, you will be asked to:

- only enter and leave the hospital once a day
- stay by your child's bedside as much as possible
- wear a face mask at all times when not by the bedside
- wash your hands regularly
- use private transport to come to hospital and go home. Please let us know if this is not possible.

Useful sources of information

The Government is updating their guidance regularly, **w:** www.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about anything in this leaflet, please contact us

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For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit **w:** www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets

Evelina London Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medicines, please speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline.

t: 020 7188 3003, Monday to Friday, 10am-5pm **e:** letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department.

t: 020 7188 8801 (PALS) **e:** pals@gstt.nhs.uk
t: 020 7188 3514 (complaints) **e:** complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk

Leaflet number: 5120/VER1

Date published: January 2021

Review date: December 2023

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A list of sources is available on request