

Lateral Flow testing for Visitors

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Visitors to adult inpatients areas (excluding maternity) should perform a Lateral Flow Test within 12 hours of an arranged visit. These can be ordered free of charge from www.gov.uk free of charge. You can also request testing kits from your local pharmacy.

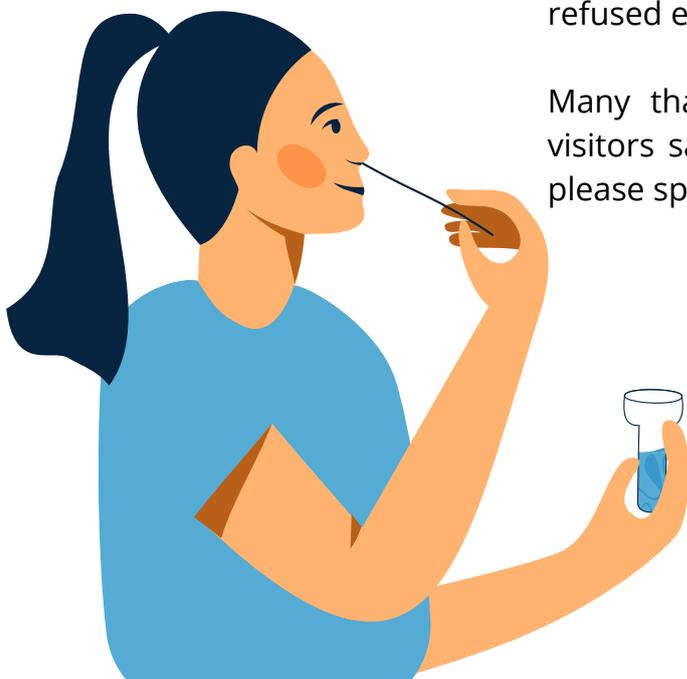
Visiting someone in a hospital is vital for families to maintain contact with their loved ones. To support visiting and help to minimise the risk of spreading the virus, particularly as the new variant is more easily transmitted, CHFT are requesting that all visitors perform a lateral flow test prior to visiting our sites.

While testing visitors can reduce the risk associated with visiting, it does not completely remove the risk of infection. When used alongside robust infection prevention and control (IPC) measures such as personal protective equipment (PPE), it can support us to safely maintain a balance between infection control and the vital benefits of visiting to the wellbeing of patients. Relatives have a very important role and responsibility to help us keep their loved ones safe.

By carefully following the steps described in this leaflet you will be playing your part in helping to protect not just your loved one, but all the other patients and staff from the risk of contracting COVID-19.

Please bring evidence of your negative test with you, this can be in the form of the email response once you have logged it on the www.gov.uk website or from a photograph of the test itself. Failure to comply with this will result in you being refused entry to the hospital you are visiting.

Many thanks for helping us keep our patients, staff and visitors safe. If you have any further questions or concerns, please speak to the Ward Manager or Nurse in charge.



Do I have to be tested in order for me to visit my relative?

Yes - Testing is really important to help us to identify people who might have COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms. A Lateral flow test will be required from all visitors, unless the visit is time critical.

Testing may not identify everyone that is currently infectious, but alongside wearing PPE and following other infection prevention and control measures, testing helps us to keep our staff and your loved ones safe.

If you have any queries or questions about the testing process we are more than happy to answer them. If you do not wish to have the test then unfortunately, we will not be able to allow you to visit, due to the associated risks to your relative and to other patients and staff.

If it is time critical as your loved one is nearing End of Life the nurse in Charge will tell you what to do.

Preparing for your visit:

To keep your loved one and our staff safe, we ask that you please follow the following guidelines:



Stay home if you're feeling unwell, including if you have a fever, a cough or a change in your sense of taste and smell



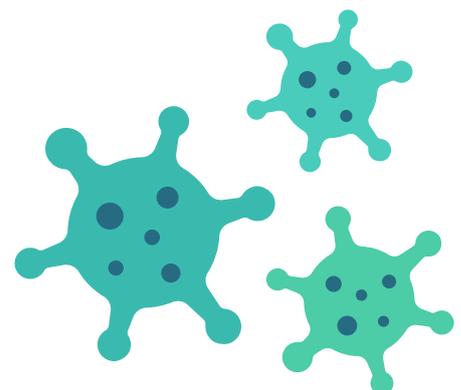
Follow national guidance outside of your visit, including limiting your contact with other people and wearing a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet – i.e. when food shopping



Observe social distancing with anyone outside of your household or bubble and wash your hands regularly



Within 12 hours of your visit, you **MUST** do a test a lateral flow (LFT) . These tests tell us if you are likely to have COVID-19 the results can be read after 30 minutes. Please do one within 12 hours of every visit.



When you first arrive at the hospital:

- We ask that you report to ward you are visiting and ring the bell, please do not enter the ward even if the doors are open
- You will be asked to confirm that you have no symptoms of COVID and have not recently had COVID yourself
- Your temperature will be checked
- You will be asked to provide evidence of a negative lateral flow test result.

During your visit, please make sure:

- You keep your fluid resistant face mask on at all times during your visit. These are available at all entrances of the hospital, or ask a member of staff.
- You only go to the part of the hospital that is permitted for your visit
- You carefully follow any guidance and instructions provided by hospital staff
- You perform hand hygiene using soap and water or alcohol hand gel.



How do I do my test?

The leaflet in the box of test kits tells you what to do. It is important that you follow these instructions carefully, so you achieve an accurate result.

Understanding your test result:

The result will affect whether you can complete your visit in the following ways:

Negative – your visit will be able to go ahead, Example of a negative result You will still have to comply with all other infection prevention measures. As it is possible that you may still have COVID-19, you will need to make sure you wear PPE at all times and ensure that the visit takes place in a safe way. If you have any questions about this, please ask the staff member.

If your test result is POSITIVE or INVALID – YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VISIT.

Once performed you should register the result using the NHS Covid-19 app or by calling 119. This will generate a text message that will be sent to the user's phone and should be shown to staff on arrival to the ward.

