

# Important information about coming into hospital for your surgery

It is essential that you read and follow this advice if you are coming into hospital for a procedure or surgery.



COVID-19 is still circulating in the community. Some patients need to have a PCR test 72 hours before their procedure. If this applies to you, you will receive an appointment for a test.

Having surgery within 7 weeks of having covid can place some patients at increased risk. **You must contact your clinical team if you have had COVID-19 recently** so they can consider this.

All patients are asked about symptoms of infection, and they may have a test on arrival to hospital. If you have symptoms, your clinical team will decide if it is still safe to have your procedure done or if it needs to be postponed.



Masks are still required in some wards and clinical areas to protect our most vulnerable patients. Our staff may ask you to wear a mask in those areas

Please contact your clinical team ahead of your procedure if you:



- Have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or think you might have the virus.
- Have been in contact with a definite case of COVID-19
- Have any other symptoms of infection for example, diarrhoea and vomiting

The clinical team will advise you what to do next. The contact number is on the letter you have inviting you for your procedure



Attend your admission appointment alone if it is safe to do so. If you need to be accompanied this must be with only one other person.

We are currently allowing visitors in our hospitals, but on occasion we may need to stop visiting at short notice. Please speak to the ward about visiting arrangements.



Use hand gel or wash your hands when you arrive and keep a distance between you and others to reduce the risk of transmission.



Staff will ask if you have been vaccinated – this is so that we can keep the vulnerable people in our hospital safe.

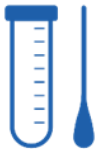
## Please follow the guidance below before your procedure

### 10 days before your operation or procedure



- Try to avoid contact with other people as much as possible outside of your home especially avoid large gatherings.
- You may continue to work or attend school.
- If you use public transport please wear a face covering and regularly wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- We do not recommend you travel abroad at this time.

### 3 days before your procedure or operation



- You may need to have a PCR done 72 hours before your procedure. If this applies to you, you will receive an appointment for a test.
- During this time we ask you to minimise contact with others if possible and to wear a mask when you do
- You can still attend work and school

You can find out about more about changes to our services and visitors policy on our website: <https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/coronavirus/>

