

## COVID-19: Will it affect my child's operation?

### The coronavirus pandemic and coming to hospital

#### Information for patients, parents and carers

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Your child is booked into the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People (RHCYP) in Edinburgh for a hospital admission or an operation. Coming into hospital for an operation or a procedure can be a worrying time for your child and family. Coronavirus, causing COVID-19, might mean that you're more anxious than normal.

The hospital team looking after your child is taking the risk of Coronavirus infection very seriously, with measures in place to try to protect patients from the virus at the RHCYP. General measures for all patients and visitors include:

- Wearing a mask or face covering – for all adults, and children over 5 unless they are exempt
- Hand sanitiser for all patients and visitors when they enter and leave
- Hand washing, including on entering wards or treatment areas
- Only one adult accompanying each patient at the RHCYP.

#### **Before your child's admission or operation**

Children and young people must have taken a Coronavirus swab test, which should be performed 48-72 hours (2-3 days) before admission.

Children and young people living in the Edinburgh area will be asked to attend the drive-through clinic which is based at Marchhall House (EH16 5HP). The results will be sent to the hospital and patients should come for their admission as planned unless they are contacted otherwise.

Your child can remain in the car and a nose and throat swab will be taken. Children are able to use public transport (e.g. taxi or bus) to get to their swab test appointment but must wear a mask while they are travelling.

Families living outside of Edinburgh will be given an alternative location, closer to home. All families will receive an appointment letter with the date, time and location of their child's Coronavirus swab test, which may take place during the weekend.

After the swab is taken, each child or young person should isolate at home and minimise contact with other people between their test and admission. Unfortunately, this means not attending school, activities, clubs, shops or other places where contact with others can occur.

Other members of the household (parents and siblings) do not need to isolate during this period, although we recommend that they limit their social contacts and follow all government distancing and infection prevention guidelines very strictly.

If the patient or any household member develops symptoms of Coronavirus during this 72-hour period, the patient may be tested again. This might mean that their operation has to be postponed.

## **What to do if your child is unwell**

If your child is unwell in the days before their admission date, or you believe that they have developed new symptoms of Coronavirus (e.g. a high temperature, a new cough, or loss of taste or smell) please contact the ward on **0131 312 0970** for advice (Monday-Friday, 9am-2pm).

## **Can COVID-19 be caught in hospital?**

Unfortunately, yes. COVID-19 can be caught during hospital visits or admissions. The staff at the RHCYP and across NHS Lothian, are working extremely hard to minimise the risks to patients, visitors and staff with regular hand washing, social distancing, wearing PPE (personal protective equipment) and enhanced cleaning.

Parents, carers and family members can help with the effort to reduce the spread of Coronavirus by following all of the current guidance and encouraging children or young people through their short period of isolation before their visit to hospital. We understand that isolation can be very difficult for children and appreciate the efforts made by parents, carers and the children themselves.

## **Further information**

General information about coming to the RHCYP can be found on our website. Visit:  
[www.children.nhsllothian.scot](http://www.children.nhsllothian.scot)