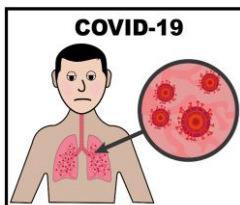


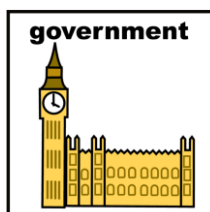
Testing for the COVID-19 Coronavirus prior to elective surgery

If you are being admitted to hospital for planned surgery then you will need to be tested for COVID-19.



COVID-19 is also known as Coronavirus. It is a viral infection which you cannot see and some people do not show any symptoms.

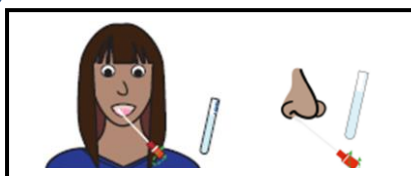
The only way to find out if you have the virus is to test.



The government advice on who should be tested for COVID-19 has changed. They have written a document which explains their plan, this is the [5-pillar strategy for coronavirus testing](#).

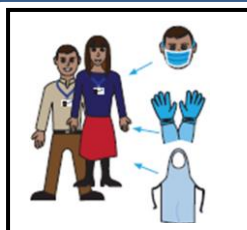


Everybody visiting the hospital must wear a mask at all times.



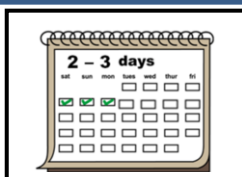
Every patient will be tested for the virus. This will help to protect both patients and staff, particularly our most vulnerable patients.

The test is a swab of your throat and your nose.



Staff will wear protective clothes to help stop the virus spreading.

They may wear a mask, gloves and an apron.



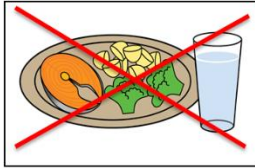
The test results usually take 2 to 3 days to process.



A member of staff will phone you if the results are positive or if the results are not available the day before your surgery.



If you do not hear from the staff then your test result has been returned and is negative. You should attend for your surgery as planned.

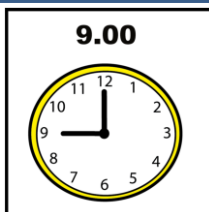


You should stop eating and drinking at the time you were told to. It is important that you do this before surgery.

If you have medicine you usually take, ask the nurse if you can take it with a small sip of water.



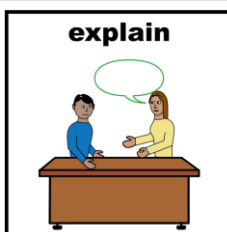
If your results are not available the day before your surgery you will be contacted again on the day of surgery by the Pre-Operative Assessment team.



If your results were not available and you are going into hospital in the morning you will be contacted before 9 am.



If your results were not available and you are going into hospital in the afternoon you will be contacted before 11 am.



If your result is not received in time or your test result is positive your surgery will be cancelled.

The team will explain what will happen next.



If you have any questions about your test results or preparing for surgery you can contact the **Pre-Operative Assessment Team** on:

01743 261000 extension 2564 (Royal Shrewsbury Hospital)

01952 641222 extension 5762 (Princess Royal Hospital)



If you would like this information in large print or a different language please contact the Pre-Operative Assessment Team: sath.preopassessmenttrsh@nhs.net