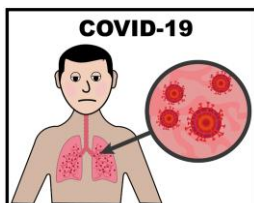


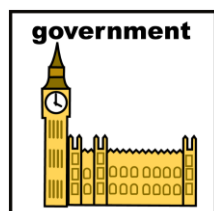
Testing for the COVID-19 Coronavirus

If you are being admitted to hospital in an emergency or as an unplanned attendance 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.

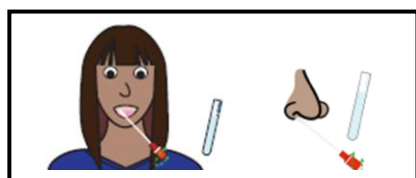
The only way to find out if you have the virus is to test.



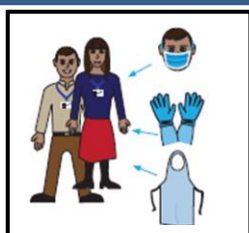
The government advice on who should be tested for COVID-19 has changed. They have written a document which explains their plan, this is the [5-pillar strategy for coronavirus testing](#).



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

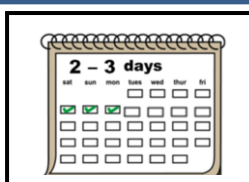


Every patient admitted as an emergency will be tested for the virus. This will help to protect both patients and staff, particularly our most vulnerable patients. The test is a swab of your throat and your nose.



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

They may wear a mask, gloves and an apron.



The results usually take 2 to 3 days to process.



If you are in hospital when your results are returned a member of staff will tell you what they are.



If you have been discharged home before the results are available, a member of staff will phone you to let you know.

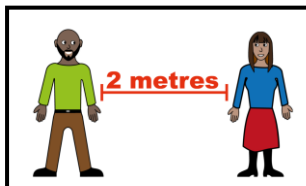
You can help to stop the virus spreading by:



- If you cough or sneeze 'catch it and bin it' using tissues. Dispose of dirty tissues promptly in the bin



- Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly for 20 seconds



- Stay at least 2 metres away from other patients



- Keep your bed space clear of clutter to help keep it clean.



- Don't share items with other patients.

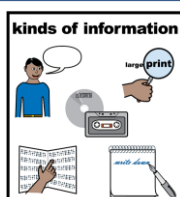


- You should use alcohol rub to clean your hands regularly for example before you eat and after touching objects such as a door handle.



If you have any questions or concerns speak to a member of staff or you can contact the Patient Advise and Liaison Service (PALS) team:

Telephone: 01743 261691 or Email: sath.pals@nhs.net



If you would like this information in large print or a different language please contact the Patient Experience Team:

sath.patientexperience@nhs.net