Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

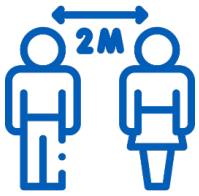
NHS

# Pre-admission advice for children and young people

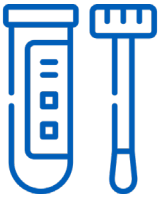
## booked for surgery in the children's ward of Richard Desmond Children's Eye Centre (RDCEC)

**This leaflet provides important advice for children, young people and families on how to prepare for day surgery to reduce the risk of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).**

### Before the surgery:




All members of your household should follow **social distancing and regular hand washing for 14 days** prior to your child's admission for surgery.



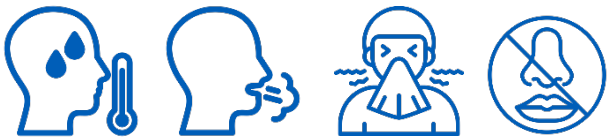
To protect your child, other patients and staff, **your child must have a nose swab test for COVID-19 exactly 3 days (72 hours) before your child comes to the hospital for their eye surgery.**

Between the swab test and your child's admission, **it is very important to ensure your child and their household do the following:**

1. Regular hand washing with soap and water for 20 seconds (the time it takes to sing Happy Birthday twice!)
2. Please encourage your family to stay within your family and school bubbles.

3. Adults and children over 11 years of age should wear a face mask in public unless exempt. Children from 5 years of age can wear a mask if they are happy to tolerate them **but children under 3 years of age must never wear a mask.**

4. **Avoid contact** with anyone displaying possible symptoms of COVID-19 (coronavirus):



- Raised temperature
- New persistent cough
- Common cold symptoms e.g. sore throat, runny nose, red eyes
- Appears unwell/lethargic
- New shortness of breath
- Loss of/change in sense of taste and/or smell in older children and adults

**If a member of your household develops any of these symptoms, please phone the children's ward staff on 0207 566 2595, Monday – Friday 07.30-18.00**

## On the day of surgery:

During the current pandemic **only ONE parent or carer can accompany your child** in hospital on the day of their operation, and **please do not bring any other children.**

### Your child's pre-admission swab COVID-19 (coronavirus) test

The Admissions Team will contact you at the time of booking your child's surgery about the pre-admission COVID-19 swab test with information about the options available to you.

If a swab test result is not available your child's surgery might be postponed; please call the paediatric advice line on 0207 253 3411 ext: 4569 between 10.00-13.00 & 14.00-16.00 Monday to Friday (not available on Bank Holidays) if you have questions or concerns regarding the swabbing process.

Your child's swab must be taken according to the following table:

| Surgery booked for | The swab test must be carried out the morning of: |
|---|---|
| Monday | Friday of the previous week |
| Tuesday | Saturday of the previous week |
| Wednesday | Sunday of the previous week |
| Thursday | Monday of the week of surgery |
| Friday | Tuesday of the week of surgery |

Your child does **not** have to isolate before coming to the hospital for eye surgery.

### You have two options for your child's swab test

Option one:

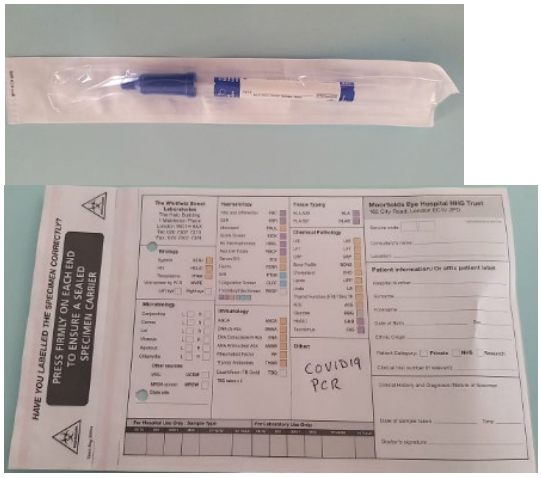
If you are able to drive to Tottenham in north London, your child can be tested at the **drive-through facility at Tottenham Hotspur Football Club.** Please phone 0208 887 4670 to make an appointment for your child's test 3 days (72 hours) before your child's admission for eye surgery.

The Admissions team at Moorfields will supply **a patient sticker which must be taken to the centre with the child's appointment letter** on the day of the test.

Option two:

**You can request a home test kit.** As part of your child's testing kit you will have a bag with one swab and container, a single pathology form with two parts and a brown addressed envelope to return your child's swab in.

We have already added your child's patient identity label to the form and swab container. This is the swab and pathology form you will receive as part of the kit:



You should **book the courier the day before you take your child's test** by phoning **0845 145 1000 (choosing option 1 then 1) quoting the reference code CR659.**

It is important that the swab is taken early the following morning; we suggest that you **swab your child's nose by 8am** so that it will be ready for the courier.

**How to take your child's nasal swab**:

1) Check your child's information on the labels to make sure the details are correct.

2) Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds, using soap and warm water.

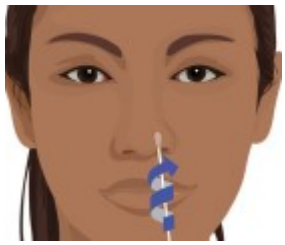
3) Clean and dry a surface to place the test kit on.

4) If your child is old enough explain what you need to do using words they understand.

5) It is important your child keeps as still as possible for this test; your child can sit on a family member's knee, they can cuddle a favourite toy or if your child is older you can encourage them to take a deep breath to relax them before you take the swab.

6) If your child is a baby you might need to ask a family member to cuddle them in their arms or hold your baby still while you take the swab.

7) Remove the swab from the container without touching the bud end or touching anything else.



8) Put the end of the swab **gently** into one of your child's nostrils until you feel some resistance and rotate for a few seconds, slowly remove it and then put the swab **gently** into the other nostril and do the same.

9) When you have completed the swab please carefully put it back in the container without touching anything else.

10) Place your swab in the bag attached to the pathology form and seal it.

11) Please place this bag in the brown envelope provided, sealing the envelope in readiness for the courier to collect.

12) If your child is old enough to take their own swab, they must wash their hands for at least 20 seconds, using soap and warm water before doing the test as above. When the swab has been taken, they need to follow steps 9 to 11 above.

**Coronavirus in children**

**Visit NHS 111 online 111.nhs.uk or call 111 if you're worried about a baby or child with symptoms.**

If the baby or child seems very unwell, is getting worse, or you think there is something seriously wrong, **call 999.**

Do not delay getting help if you're worried. Trust your instincts.

**We look forward to welcoming you and your child at Moorfields.**