

# Patient information

## COVID-19 lateral flow testing

In the run up to your treatment, we need to make sure as far as possible that you are free from COVID-19 infection. This is to both help ensure you are fit and healthy for your recovery, and to protect other patients.

The arrangements for testing have changed in line with the recent guidance changes.

### Elective Procedures including Endoscopy, Day Surgery and Inpatient Theatres.

- You will be asked to carry out a lateral flow test at home prior to attending for your admission
- You will be required to do this test even if you have been vaccinated against COVID-19.
- You will be required to do this test even if you have tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 90 days
- You will still be required to wear a surgical facemask or shield, provided by the Trust and observe hand hygiene, and infection prevention guidance whilst on site.

You can get a free rapid self-testing kit – known as lateral flow tests - by ordering them online at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> for home deliver, or by calling 119. You will need to confirm that your doctor or healthcare professional has told you to get a test because you're being admitted to hospital.

You should perform the test **the day before your planned admission**, either around 3pm for a morning admission or just before bed for an afternoon admission.

Please read the test kit instructions carefully; the test should take no more than 40 minutes to complete, including waiting for the result. You should report the result online at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> or by calling 119.

- **If you test likely positive:** please call the phone number on your appointment letter as soon as possible.
- **If you test likely negative:** please be ready to show confirmation of your result to staff when you arrive for your treatment. This might be a text or email from the NHS reporting service, a photo of the test device on your phone. You do not normally need to bring the test device with you, unless you have no other way of showing the result.

**Please contact the Covid Assessment Team on 01284713773 if you have any problems obtaining LFTs or if you have any queries.**



**West Suffolk**  
NHS Foundation Trust

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