



Raedwald Children's Ward
Ipswich Hospital
Tel: 01473 702737 (8 am – 6 pm, Monday to Friday)
If your query is outside these hours, call 01473 702194
Children's Elective Care Unit
Colchester Hospital
Tel: 01206 744237



East Suffolk and
North Essex
NHS Foundation Trust

Information for parents and carers with a child having a procedure in theatres – Summer 2020

We understand this is a difficult and worrying time for you coming into hospital. In response to Coronavirus (COVID-19), we have introduced important changes to the way we deliver care to:

- Reduce the risk of you or your child becoming infected with COVID-19
- Reduce the risk of you or your child bringing the infection into hospital

Please take time to read this information carefully.

To prepare for your child's procedure, for the two weeks before your procedure:

- Please do not attend any social or family gatherings with people outside your own household or support bubble
- Please avoid contact with anyone you know to be unwell
- Please wash your hands with soap and water often

Your child can go to school, while observing to COVID-19 safety measures that have been put in place at school.

Please remember to tell us about any contact you or your child have with anyone with COVID-19 or symptoms in the 14 days before your operation.

We will book an appointment for your child to come into hospital to have a COVID-19 swab test three days before

their procedure. It may be necessary to swab the parent/carer attending with the patient.

We want to avoid unnecessarily distressing your child but need to try and swab all patients who are coming in for planned procedures and, if necessary, their accompanying parent/carer.

The swabs will be performed with support from a children's nurse and, where required, play therapists. We think this will enable us to comfortably swab all children successfully but if you feel that additional measures are required for your child, please contact us.

You will be contacted with clear information about what to do before your procedure, where to go and at what time.

Your child's procedure will be cancelled on the day if:

- You or your child have symptoms of COVID-19 such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or loss/change in sense of taste and/or sense of smell, or
- You or your child's swab (if taken) has come back positive for COVID-19

If you, your child, or anyone else in your household develops symptoms of COVID-19 during this 14-day period, please seek advice from NHS 111 and let us know immediately by



ringing one of the numbers on the front of this leaflet.

We are asking all parents, carers and children over the age of 11 coming to hospital to wear a face covering. Please look at our video about this – it is on YouTube if you search for 'ESNEFT child friendly'.

Getting to hospital

Ideally we would like you to use your own or a friend's vehicle to arrive at hospital, rather than public transport or a taxi but if you need to use public transport or if a friend or taxi will be dropping you off, please ensure you clean your hands when you arrive at the hospital. If you travel with someone who is not in your household, please sit in the rear of vehicle and use a face covering during this journey.

We ask all patients, visitors and staff to wear a face covering inside the hospital. Please bring one if you have your own, or you can obtain one at the hospital entrances.

In the hospital

To avoid crowding in the admission ward, please do not attend any earlier than we ask you to. You will be welcomed on to the ward by our teams. **Please observe strict social distancing whilst in hospital. We ask you and your child not to mix with other patients or parents.**

When it is time for your child's procedure, you will be able to accompany them to the operating theatre, wearing a surgical face mask that we will provide.

Please ask if you need this leaflet in an alternative format.

The staff in theatre will be wearing personal protective equipment (PPE). This is to protect you, your child and themselves. A nurse will then take you back to the ward where you will need to wait until your child's procedure is finished.

Please call one of the numbers on the front of this leaflet if you have any questions about this guidance.

You can use this space to record important dates and times about your child's procedure.

Your child (and if advised the parent attending on the day of surgery) will have COVID-19 swab tests on [date]:

..... / / at [time]: :

and will take place at [place]:

You and your child will come in for the procedure on [date]:

..... / / at [time]: :

Please arrive on time and not too early.

You need to come to [ward/admission area]:

The last time your child should eat is at [time]:..... :

The last time your child should be breast/bottle fed is at [time]:..... :

Your child can drink water on the day of their procedure until we ask them to stop drinking.