



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 (Blue pathway)

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 Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Reduce the risk of you or your child bringing the infection into hospital

Please take time to read this information carefully.

Your child is on the blue pathway.

This means that although it is unlikely that you or your child have Coronavirus (COVID-19):

- One or both of you have been unable to self-isolate for the full 14 consecutive days prior to your child's procedure.

We will still book an appointment for you and your child to provide swab samples a few days before your child's procedure.

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

The swabs will be performed with support from a children's nurse and play specialist for those children where

taking the swab may be more of a challenge. Please let us know what you think will be helpful to get the swabs done as smoothly as possible.

You may have told your surgeon it is going to be impossible for you to self-isolate with your child for the full 14 days. To reduce the risks for you, your child and other patients and staff, we would still recommend that your household tries to self-isolate as much as possible before your child's procedure. Please do not attend social gatherings and do not allow household visitors, except essential care givers to come into your home. Please try to keep to social distancing guidance when you are outside your house or in your garden.

We understand this is difficult to do and thank you in advance for your efforts in keeping to these instructions.

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

We are working hard to keep everyone safe. Your child's procedure may be cancelled on the day if:

- You or your child have symptoms of Coronavirus (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 Coronavirus (COVID-19)

If you, your child, or anyone else in your household develops symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) during this 14-day period, please seek advice from NHS 111 and notify the preoperative assessment team on one of the numbers at the top of this leaflet.

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

If you need to use public transport to get to hospital, or if a friend or taxi will be dropping you off, please also use a face covering during this journey.

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 do not let your child mix with other children while they are in hospital.**

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.

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

If we agree this is possible to do, you and your child will have your 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.

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