



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 (Green 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 green pathway.**

Some children may be on this pathway because either they or their parents or carers have a medical condition which puts them at increased risk from the effects of Coronavirus (COVID-19). We want to invite this group of people into areas of the hospital where the risks of catching Coronavirus (COVID-19) are the lowest we can make them.

Being on this pathway means you and your child are able to:

- Self-isolate for 14 consecutive days before coming into hospital
- Provide nose and throat swab samples three days before the procedure.

**This should be the only reason you or your child leave your home during this 14-day period.**

You will be contacted with clear information about what to do before your procedure, where to go and at what time. In order to ensure everyone's safety, 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; new, continuous cough; or loss/change in sense of smell or sense of taste, or
- You or your child's swab 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. Please also 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 area, please do not attend any earlier than we ask you to. Please do not let your child mix with other children while you 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.

### What does self-isolation mean?

During the 14-day period of self-isolation neither you or your child must leave the house. **The only exception is to attend for your swabs or in an emergency.**

If other members of your household (other parents, siblings or relatives) are unable to self-isolate with you, please take all reasonable precautions to minimise close contact with them. This includes maintaining two-metre social distancing in the house, sleeping in separate beds and not sharing bathroom towels.

Please also try to minimise the times that you and your child share communal spaces (such as the kitchen or living room) with the rest of your family.

- **Do not leave the house for shopping**
- **Do not attend social gatherings**
- **Do not allow visitors except essential care givers**

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

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

You and your child will start to self-isolate on the morning of [date]:

..... / ..... / .....

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.

Issued by:  
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