

COMING INTO HOSPITAL

COVID-19 Safety Checks

Up to 24 hours before the day of your appointment, a member of the booking team may contact you by telephone. The purpose of the call is to assess if your child has any possible COVID-19 symptoms or contact with the virus. The caller will also provide information for attending your appointment.

When you arrive at the department, you will be asked some questions to check again whether your child has COVID-19 symptoms or may have had contact with the virus. They may also have their temperature checked and staff will ask them to wash their hands with soap or to use alcohol gel.

Safe Treatment in Hospital

Our staff are here for you and your safety is our top priority. The risk of catching COVID-19 in hospital is low and together we can take precautions to reduce the risk as much as possible. You can help us to keep you and your family safe, by following the guidance in this letter. Our staff are under great pressure and we would also ask that you show them respect at this time.

To maintain the safety of our patients and staff, it is very important that the number of people in our hospitals and departments at any one time is very low. We have made changes to clinic sizes and locations, clinic layouts, wall and floor signage and cleaning arrangements, to help keep our environments safe. Please comply with the instructions you see around the hospital.

COVID-19 Safety Measures

Measures to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in our hospitals have remained in place after the lifting of national restrictions on 19th July. We ask that you observe the following guidance in order to help us continue to protect our vulnerable patients, staff and communities.

- **Wear a face covering**

All patients and their accompanying parent or carer needs to wear a surgical face mask in hospital unless there is a legitimate reason not to.

If you do not have a surgical face mask, please wear your own face covering into the hospital building and collect a free surgical mask from the entrance or reception as soon as you arrive. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Young children under the age of 11 are exempt (Public Health England do not recommend face coverings for children under the age of 3 for health and safety reasons) along with anyone who cannot put on, wear or remove a face mask because of a physical or mental illness, impairment or disability.

- **Social distancing**

You must follow 2 metre social distancing rules in all areas of the hospital both inside and outside.

- **Hand hygiene**

Wash your and your child's hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport. Use hand sanitiser if soap and water are not available. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands and encourage your child to do the same. Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch yours and your child's cough or sneeze; then bin the tissue and wash your hands, or use hand sanitiser.

- **Visitor restrictions**

Only one accompanying parent or carer should support a patient for any appointment, Emergency Department or inpatient stay. This includes siblings and other family members.

- **Arrive on time**

Try to attend no more than 10 minutes before the expected appointment time. This is to stop too many people waiting in the department at one time.

- **Self-isolate**

For some operations and tests we will ask you to self-isolate at home before you come into hospital. If you need to do this we will send you a letter or phone you. We will also make arrangements for you to have a COVID-19 swab test.

There is more information about inpatient and outpatient care on our hospital website. You can find this at: www.leedsth.nhs.uk/coronavirus

COVID-19 Symptoms

If your child or anyone in your household develops symptoms of COVID-19 before your appointment, please do not come into hospital. Ring the booking team using the contact number on your appointment letter and we will rebook your appointment.



Common symptoms include:

- A high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- A new continuous cough or one that has got worse recently.
- Loss of change to your sense of smell or taste.

Smoke-free Site

Please note that all of our hospital sites are designated as smoke-free. This means that smoking is not permitted anywhere inside or outside on hospital grounds. Thank you for helping to keep our sites smoke-free.