

# COVID-19 Criteria for Admission

## Patient Information

Surgery Division - Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Leigh Infirmary  
and D Ward Wrightington Hospital

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## Introduction

Please read carefully and ensure you follow all instructions given to you prior to your surgery. The Trust has developed guidelines that recommend how services should be organised in order to balance the risks associated with COVID-19 with the potential harms that can arise from delays in elective surgery ( elective surgery is surgery that is not essential as it is not life threatening ) . It promotes a flexible approach based on individual patient health status and the type of procedure they require .This approach aims to support the prompt recovery of elective treatment, whilst promoting shared decision-making and balancing the risk and benefits of surgery.

The Trust presently uses 3 sites for surgical treatment covering the different types of surgical procedures delivered by the surgical division. Each site has put processes into place to reduce the risks involved in having treatment within a hospital setting since the COVID virus has been present.

The Royal Albert Edward Infirmary is known as a blue site. This means that the site has wards where patients are being treated for COVID or suspected COVID due to the fact it's an acute site that takes emergency patients. There are also COVID negative wards known as green wards. All elective patients are admitted to the Surgical Admission Lounge and this is a green area with facility to nurse patients separately with unknown COVID status if it is required. The inpatient wards used for elective overnight stays will again also be green areas.

The surgical ward at Leigh Infirmary and D ward at Wrightington are known as green COVID free areas, due to only planned elective surgery taking place at these sites To support this process, prior to admission, the admitting surgeon or clinical practitioner will discuss the associated risks related to COVID with you to gain your consent to being admitted to the designated hospital where your surgery will take place. This may be done when you are at the start of your admission process at the outpatients or by telephone if you have been on a waiting list for some time.

## The National guidance is as follows:

1. The patient having planned surgery and members of their household should follow social-distancing and hand hygiene measures for 14 days before admission. The patient will be then advised to self-isolate after the test for COVID, which takes place three days prior to admission In some circumstances, due to the patients' health status or procedure the patient may need to self-isolate for 14 days. This will be advised by your clinician prior to your admission date being set to allow you time to organise this with family, friends or carers .The patient will have a COVID virus swab test at 3 days prior to their admission date i.e. on Day 11 of their social distancing period. The swab test will take place at the drive through facility on the Leigh Infirmary site ,and an appointment time will be confirmed for you prior to your

admission. If this is not possible, please discuss with your pre -op assessment nurse, so an alternative arrangement can be made.

2. The patient will be contacted by the hospital on the day prior to their admission i.e. on Day 13, to be advised of test results and complete a Pre admission Health check Questionnaire.
3. During your stay with us, our staff will be observing the necessary social distancing and will be dressed in appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) required for both your safety and the safety of our staff. Please note that in exceptional circumstances an overnight stay may be required for some day case admissions.
4. A period of post-operative social distancing is advised to protect you from contracting the virus in the early post-operative period for 14 days depending on your circumstances, however this might increase or decrease as more evidence becomes available.

If at any point prior to your admission you develop symptoms of COVID-19, please inform the Admissions department on 0300 555 4567 - option two, then option one. These symptoms could include a high temperature, a new continuous cough, loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms.

### **Travelling to the hospital**

Please do not use public transport or a taxi to travel to the hospital for your admission. If, for medical reasons, you require an ambulance to enable you to attend the hospital, please contact your GP service and give 48 hrs notice.

### **Visiting**

Unfortunately, it will not be possible for relatives or friends to remain in the hospital during your procedure, or to visit the hospital if you have an inpatient stay.

# How to self-isolate

If you're self-isolating, you and anyone you live with must not leave your home.

## Don't

- ✗ do not go to work, school or public places – work from home if you can
- ✗ do not go on public transport or use taxis
- ✗ do not go out to get food and medicine – order it online or by phone, or ask someone to bring it to your home
- ✗ do not have visitors in your home, including friends and family – except for people providing essential care
- ✗ do not go out to exercise – exercise at home or in your garden, if you have one

Please use this space to write notes or reminders.

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## Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends and carers.

## Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager  
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
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## Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



[https://www.wrightingtonhospital.org.uk/media/downloads/sdm\\_information\\_leaflet.pdf](https://www.wrightingtonhospital.org.uk/media/downloads/sdm_information_leaflet.pdf)

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## How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use and store the information we hold about you, please take a look at our “how we use your information” leaflet which can be found on the Trust website:  
[https://www.wvl.nhs.uk/patient\\_information/leaflets/](https://www.wvl.nhs.uk/patient_information/leaflets/)

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This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille and other languages upon request. For more information please ask in the department/ward.

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