

Guidance for patients attending Benenden Hospital for an Outpatient Appointment, a surgical procedure or a Covid19 Swab test during the current Coronavirus Pandemic

We understand that coming into hospital can be a stressful time and even more so right now.

Rest assured we have strict hygiene and infection-control measures in place to protect our patients, staff and visitors. Please note, Staff will be wearing appropriate personal protective equipment.

Our award-winning atrium has been purposely reconfigured to allow for social distancing with a 'no-contact' patient-routing system in place to reduce close contact for everyone. Additionally, as part of our existing strict hygiene and cleaning regime, anti-bacterial hand sanitising products are stationed at key points throughout the hospital.

Please do not come to the hospital if you have developed any of these symptoms

- A high temperature
- A new continuous cough
- A loss or change to your smell or taste

Please read the guidance below thoroughly, and carefully follow these instructions:

Outpatients and surgical admissions patient information

- If you arrive early for your appointment, please remain in your car until 10 minutes before your appointment time
- When you enter the hospital, you will be temperature-checked and asked a few questions
- Please note, as per government guidelines **you will need to wear your own face covering**, which now applies to anyone visiting any hospital in England, **these will not be provided**
- Please use the hand gels provided on entering the hospital and wash hands where possible
- Please adhere to the social distancing rules we have in place
- If you require any help or assistance while you are at the hospital, please ask a member of the reception team, who will be happy to help

Where to go for your Covid testing for those patients having a surgical procedure

You will receive an invitation from Benenden Hospital to come to the hospital to attend a Covid screening process around **72 hours** before your procedure date, your invitation letter will confirm the date and the time window for your test.

Please DO NOT attend the main reception, as you approach the hospital, our designated **Covid screening station** will be clearly marked and sign posted from the access roads around Benenden Hospital. This is a convenient drive-through site and our nursing team will then guide you through the **self-swab test as you remain safe in your car**. Please avoid eating for an hour prior to testing and bring a bottle of water and some tissues with you in case you would like a drink after your swab.

Please note you will be required to perform your own swab, if you feel unable to do this please arrange for someone to accompany you in your vehicle on the day.

Having fully completed your test, you can return home. You will still need to continue with self-isolation guidelines below prior to your admission;

- All patients that require a bed on the ward, including day surgery are asked to self-isolate for 14 days prior to admission
- Other day procedures such as Cataract, Dermatology, Hand surgery and Varicose Veins will be asked to self-isolate for 7 days prior to admission
- All Endoscopic procedures such as Endoscopy (OGD), Colonoscopy, Sigmoidoscopy, Cystoscopy and Hysteroscopy will be individually risk assessed.

Results of your Covid test

Unless you hear from us, please attend your appointment as normal. You will **only** be notified by phone if your test result is positive.

Instructions for all patients attending for procedures or surgery at Benenden Hospital

There are some extra steps that **we need you** to take before you attend the hospital for your planned procedure or operation.

You will be required to:

- Self-isolate with everyone in your household (as indicated above) before the date of the procedure
- Not use public transport to or from the hospital
- During this time patient visiting is not permitted
- You will need to attend the hospital alone and so will have already made provision for your transport on discharge.

THE BLUE ARROWS INDICATE THE DIRECTION TO THE COVID TESTING STATION

