

## Being admitted to Ellern Mede during the period of COVID-19 precautions



### Admission Guidance for Patients May 21

#### Welcome to Ellern Mede

Here is some information specific to the current global COVID-19 pandemic and any precautions we have taken that you should know of during your hospital stay. Ellern Mede hospitals have continued to function safely and safely admit new patients throughout this time. Guidance changes depending on Public Health advice. Any staff who either develop symptoms or test positive for the virus self-isolate. We pick up these cases through regular home self-testing. All staff have access to vaccination and about 50% have taken advantage of this precaution. Patients are tested regularly and anyone who tests positive is immediately given a single room for the recommended self-isolation period.

**New Patients:** As a new patient, if you have tested negative for COVID-19 immediately prior to admission, your admission to the wards will be normal. If you have not been tested, you will be tested on arrival at Ellern Mede. Until the results are known, you will be allocated your own room for 7 days. You will be closely attended throughout this time, and after, by our care staff. They will wear protective clothing such as gloves and masks. Please don't feel afraid of this, it is just standard procedure for aiding the control of infections. We understand that not mixing with other patients may feel strange and we appreciate your patience until you can safely mix with all ward activities. Once we are sure you are safe, we will move you to a shared room and interaction with other patients.

**Visiting rules:** For more than a year we sadly had to have at times, no visitors or home leave; at other times very few visitors and home leave. We are all very pleased for you and your families that in May 2021 lockdown ended and we could welcome regular family visits and risk-assessed care-planned home leave; just with pre-testing and a set number of visitors for each visit.

**School:** For a time, school was online, but is now back to normal.

**Hand-washing:** Please continue to wash your hands frequently and after you have touched surfaces. Wash for a minimum of 20 seconds with soap and water and avoid touching your face.

### Latest News for patients

Three people at a time family visits allowed. As of May 2021.

Physical contact is allowed. Visits indoors in a pre-booked, pre-cleaned room.

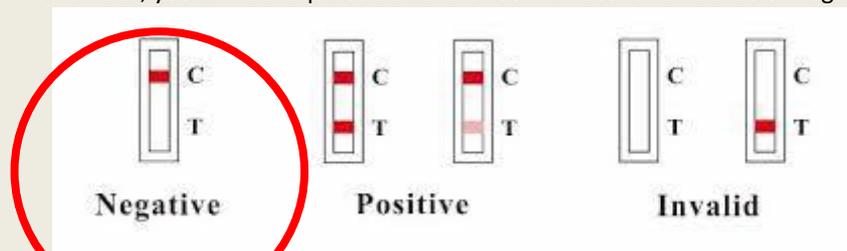
Visitors show evidence of same day negative self-test or receive a free Covid-19 rapid flow test on arrival and wait for results.

Staff continue to wear masks and use protective infection control wear such as gloves and scrubs.

# Ellern Mede visiting rules are regularly updated during the pandemic

## Ellern Mede Group Visiting Policy May 2021

- With effect from 17 May 2021, we continue with visiting in terms of the following guidelines:
  - Each visit will be individually risk assessed by the patient's Consultant in conjunction with their MDT and the Centre Manager.
  - The Consultant's decision will be on a case-by-case basis and each decision will have been very carefully considered and must be respected.
  - Visits will continue to be limited to ONE visit per week attended by up to three family members and time is again limited to one hour.
  - Local managers have the discretion to extend this time, especially for those parents visiting from long distances and where extending visits does not overlap with other visitors attending their hospital.
- Visits to each hospital site will still be limited to a maximum of 5 appropriately spaced parental visits per day (6 visits on weekend days).
- Visits to be agreed at least 24 hours in advance (48 hours for weekend visits) by the Ward Manager or Centre Manager.
- Visitors who have any of the known COVID-19 symptoms must stay at home and arrange to have a test to see if they have the virus and ensure they are symptom free before coming back to site.
- All UK citizens are eligible for free testing now. See <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk> and <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. By definition a test is only as reliable as the moment it was completed. We can only accept Self-Test results timed and dated for IMMEDIATELY before your arrival on the hospital site. We cannot accept tests from schools, or any tests taken earlier in the day. We will continue free of charge COVID testing for all visitors who have not self-tested on the day.
- The arrival process and testing or test checking is as follows:
  - Call reception 15 minutes ahead of the agreed arrival time (your arrival time will be 30 minutes before your visit time) to announce pending arrival and vehicle registration number.
  - Upon arrival, please remain in your vehicle / or in the car park and await a team member. All visitors must wear a face covering or mask.
  - The team member will check:
    - Your temperature - above 37.8 centigrade will prevent the visit.
    - If required, you will be tested using \*INNOVA SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test (oral or nasal swab) for the presence of nucleocapsid antigen. Positive results indicate the presence of viral antigens; this indicates you may have an active COVID-19 infection and are likely to be infectious and will not be permitted to visit the service.
    - If you have an alternative proof of testing, this will be checked.
- If tested on site, you will be required to wait for 30 minutes for evidence of negative test.



- Visitors on site who develop any of the known symptoms must report these without delay to a team member and must immediately go home and not return until symptom free or they receive a negative test.
- Visitors must wash hands thoroughly on arrival before going to the visiting area or room.
- We expect a sensible approach to social distancing during the visit, i.e no direct contact and a mask must still be worn by Visitors, Patient and Staff.
- When the visit is complete, if a room is used, we will clean the room with antiseptic wipes or spray by the Ellern Mede Housekeeping team or in their absence the care staff team member.
- All visits and indeed this protocol will be subject to "no notice" cancellation in the event of, for example, severe staffing shortages or a new "outbreak" of COVID-19 amongst Patients or staff. In these cases, and wherever possible, the Ward Manager or Nurse in Charge will immediately contact all parents who are due to visit on that day to alert them of the cancellation of the visit and why.

*\* INNOVA SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test is effective in identifying antigens that are forming from the point of infection (day 1) up to 5 days, but is not reliable from day 6 onwards*