



St Joseph's
Hospice

Visitor (Lateral Flow Tests) COVID-19 Testing Guidance

St Joseph's Hospice,
Mare Street, Hackney,
London E8 4SA

T: 020 8525 6000
E: info@stjh.org.uk
www.stjh.org.uk



St Joseph's
Hospice

Visiting safely

Visiting someone in a hospice is vital for families to maintain contact with their loved ones. To support visiting and help to minimise the risk of spreading the virus, particularly as the new variant is more easily transmitted, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is rolling out new rapid COVID-19 tests to hospices. This has enabled hospices to undertake regular testing of visitors alongside staff members.

While testing visitors can reduce the risk associated with visiting, it does not completely remove the risk of infection. When used alongside robust infection prevention and control (IPC) measures such as personal protective equipment (PPE), it can support us to safely maintain a balance between infection control and the vital benefits of visiting to the wellbeing of patients.

Relatives have a very important role and responsibility to help hospices keep their loved ones safe. Please think of yourself as part of a team with the hospice staff. By carefully following the steps described in this leaflet you will be playing your part in helping to protect not just your loved one, but all the other patients and staff from the risk of contracting COVID-19.

Thank you

Many thanks for helping us keep our patients, staff and visitors safe.

If you have any further questions or concerns please speak to the Ward Manager or Nurse in charge.

When you first arrive at the hospice

- We ask that you report to the hospice main reception
- You will be asked to confirm that you have no symptoms of COVID and have not recently had COVID yourself
- Your temperature will be checked
- You will be asked to provide the test strip lateral flow test result in the sealed bag you have been given
- Once it is a confirmed negative result (see page 5) you will be permitted to visit

During your visit

Inside the hospice, wear your face covering and any other PPE that you will be asked to wear by a member of staff.

What you can do during your visit

Visitors should minimise contact as much as possible to reduce the risk of transmission. During your visit, please make sure:

- You keep your PPE on that you have been advised to wear
- You only go to the part of the hospice that is permitted for your visit
- You follow carefully any guidance and instructions provided by hospice staff
- You perform hand hygiene using soap and water or alcohol hand gel

Please read this guidance carefully so that you know what to expect for your visit, as well as the precautions the hospice will ask that you take to keep your loved ones and all their patients and staff safe.

Do I have to be tested in order for me to visit my relative?

Yes - Testing is really important to help us to identify people who might have COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms. A Lateral flow test will be required from all visitors over the age of 11, unless the visit is time critical. Testing may not identify everyone that is currently infectious, but alongside wearing PPE and following other infection prevention and control measures, testing helps us to keep the hospice and your loved ones safe.

If you have any queries or questions about the testing process we are more than happy to answer them. If you do not wish to have the test then unfortunately we will not be able to allow you to visit, due to the associated risks to your relative and to other patients and staff.

If it is time critical as your loved one is nearing End of Life the nurse in Charge will tell you what to do.

Preparing for your visit

To keep your loved one and the hospice safe, we ask that you please follow the following guidelines:

- Stay home if you're feeling unwell, including if you have a fever, a cough or a change in your sense of taste and smell
- Follow national guidance outside of your visit, including limiting your contact with other people and wearing a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet – i.e. when food shopping
- Observe social distancing with anyone outside of your household or bubble and wash your hands regularly

On the day of your visit

You **MUST** do a test a lateral flow (LFT) test before you visit, these tests tell us if you are likely to have COVID-19 the results can be read after 30 minutes. We will provide you with a box of 7 tests. Please do one each day before you visit. Please ask for more test kits if you need them. You can also get test kits for free from your local pharmacy

How do I do my test?

The leaflet in the box of test kits tells you what to do. It is important that you follow these instructions carefully so you achieve an accurate result.

Rather than putting the **test strip** in the waste bag with the other test kit contents you need to put it into the bag we have given you and bring it to the hospice as proof you have completed the test.

Understanding your test result

The result will affect whether you can complete your visit in the following ways:

Negative – **your visit will be able to go ahead,**

Example of a negative result



You will still have to comply with all other infection prevention measures. As it is possible that you may still have COVID-19, so the hospice will need to make sure you wear PPE at all times and ensure that the visit takes place in a safe way. If you have any questions about this, please ask the staff member.

If your test result is **POSITIVE** or **INVALID** – **YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VISIT.** Please follow the instructions in the leaflet that came with your test kits.