

ST Georges Updated Swabbing Guidance update for Community Partners

Following publication of the testing guidance '*Living with COVID*' on 30 March 2022 the requirement for PCR testing has reduced. Most notably, PCR testing for inpatients on days 3 and day 5 is no longer required.

Overall, the impact is a significant reduction in the volume of PCR testing throughout the NHS; the update below summarises changes in requirements for PCR testing:

SGUH: Current PCR Testing position

- **PCR swabs** All new admissions are PCR swabbed in ED

Routine inpatient swabbing for Day 3 and Day 5 has stopped in line with guidance

In line with the new testing national Guidance, high risk patients admitted to the following areas/departments in the hospital will have a PCR

- General ICU
- Cardiothoracic ITU
- Neuro ITU
- Haematology and Oncology Departments
- **Elective/ planned care**
 - Day surgery – swabbing suspended
 - Clinically vulnerable, high risk and cardiac surgery patients – PCR testing: outside of new national Guidance
- **Discharge of patients**

Patients on discharge are not routinely swabbed (unless symptomatic for Covid-19)

 - Patients discharged to Nursing Homes are swabbed prior to discharge, in line with National Guidance
 - Transfer of patients to other inpatient Healthcare providers-swabbing is done, however this is not part of national guidance and is currently being reviewed by South West London (SWL) IPC Group

Please see link below for summary of changes to Covid-19 guidance for adult and social care providers:

[Summary of changes to COVID-19 guidance for adult social care providers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/summary-of-changes-to-covid-19-guidance-for-adult-social-care-providers)