

Further advice and information

Should you require further advice or information please speak with the nurse in charge or the medical team.

More information can be found at:

- www.stcatherines.co.uk
- www.nhs.uk
- www.patient.co.uk
- www.accessible.co.uk

For COVID-19 information in different languages, please visit:

www.uhs.nhs.uk/PatientsAndVisitors/Patients-with-additional-needs/Interpreters-and-translated-information/COVID-19-information-in-different-languages.aspx



Coronavirus (Covid-19) Information for Patients and Carers



What is Covid-19?

COVID-19 is the disease caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. Most people will experience mild symptoms but some people may progress to develop a severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

Generally speaking, coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer or chronic lung disease.

The Hospice does look after patients with Covid-19 if or when hospice care is appropriate for them.

Common signs and symptoms of Covid-19

- Fever
- Persistent Cough
- Loss of taste and/or smell
- Shortness of breath

Why and when will you be screened for Covid-19?

Coronavirus is transmitted from person to person, after close contact, for example in a household, workplace or health care setting.

In order to try and prevent the spread of infection whilst in the hospice between patients, visitors and staff you will be screened for Covid-19:

- On admission to the hospice even in the absence of symptoms and at regular intervals thereafter
- If you develop symptoms of Covid-19 at any point during your admission

What happens if you come into contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19?

If during or prior to your admission you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, you will be cared for as blue status in a single room for 14 days and monitored closely for symptoms of Covid-19.

You will be swabbed for Covid-19 at regular intervals. If you are discharged prior to completion of 10 days isolation it is mandatory to complete 10 days isolation at home.

How can you protect yourself from others whilst in the hospice?

- Maintaining good hand hygiene
- Coughing or sneezing into a tissue, disposing of the tissue and then washing your hands
- Maintaining a distance of two metres from other people
- If you have suspected or confirmed Covid-19 (red or amber status) you will be asked to wear a face mask for times when you are in close proximity to staff (such as during personal care) and when leaving your room if you are able to wear one.
- If you are green or blue status you will be offered a face mask for times when you are in close proximity to staff and when leaving your room. Staff will discuss this with you and take into account your preferences and ability to wear a mask.



What happens after you have been screened?

On admission to the hospice whilst awaiting the results of the screening test, if you do not have symptoms of Covid-19 you will be nursed as what is referred to as amber status in either a single or double room. You will be requested to remain in the room; all hospice rooms have en-suite facilities.

If the screening test is negative, you will be nursed as green status in either a single or double room.

During your admission to the hospice if you are found to be positive for Covid-19 following the screening tests (or if you develop symptoms of Covid-19 during admission and have a positive test), you will remain in isolation as red status in either a single or double room for a minimum of 14 days.

Again you will be requested to remain in the room. This would not prevent discharge home if you are well; however isolation must be completed at home as per Public Health guidance.

The details of hospice visiting are regularly reviewed and can change depending on your Covid-19 status, you will be provided with separate information about this.



How will you be screened for Covid-19?

The screening tests for Covid-19 are quick and simple.

A test that is sent to the laboratory for analysis is the mainstay of testing. A small cotton bud swab is taken from inside of your nose and throat. The test is painless and may be a little uncomfortable, but only for a few seconds. On some occasions you may be asked to provide a sputum sample.

When will you get the test results?

The laboratory test results come back approximately in one or two days.

What can I expect from the staff working in the hospice?

All staff who are working in the hospice are expected to wear a surgical face mask, extra personal protective equipment including protective eyewear, gloves, aprons and gowns may also be worn.