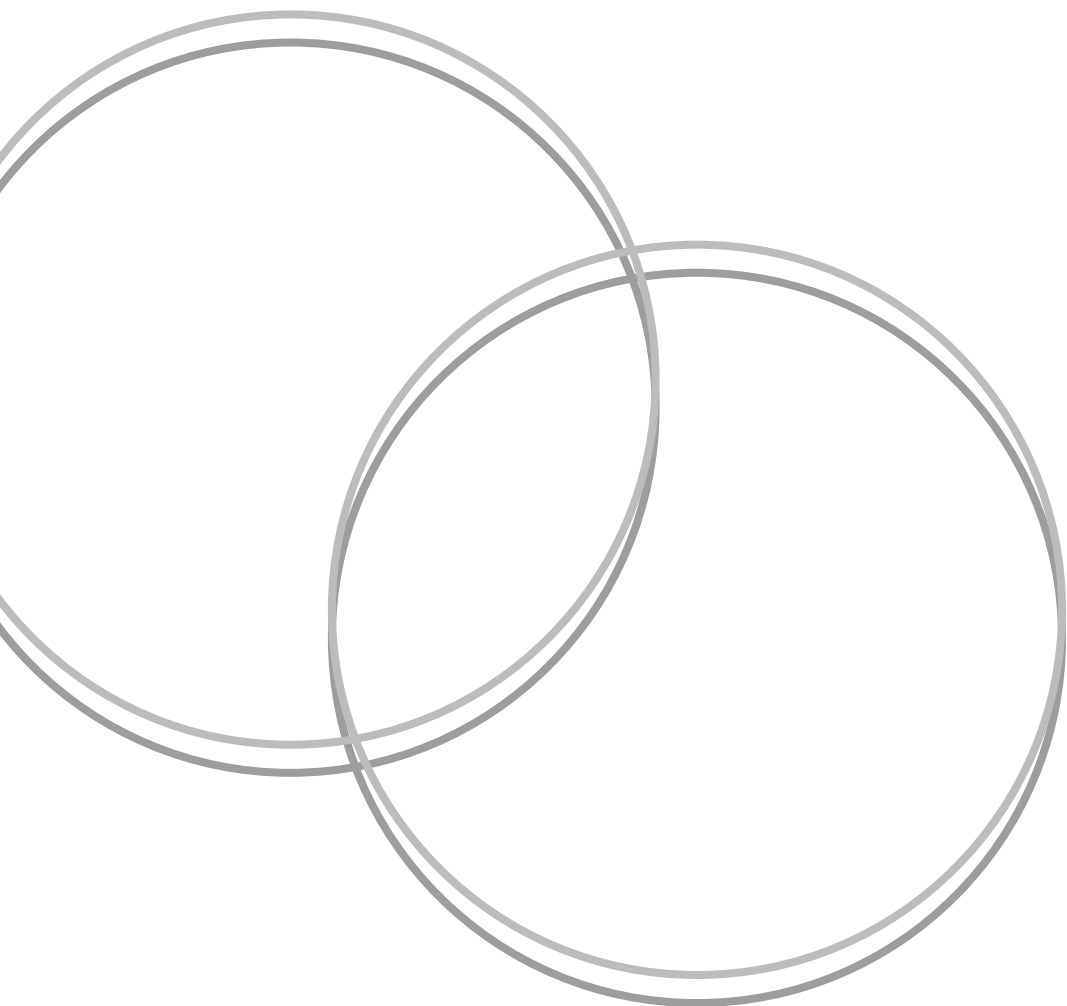




Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Pre-operative patient information on COVID-19



The COVID-19 pandemic has caused huge disruption to the delivery of operations across the NHS. For a short while, only emergency life-saving operations were carried out. The environment in the NHS is now improving, and hospitals are able to carefully restart planned surgical procedures for their patients.

There is however still some risk to patients and healthcare workers of contracting COVID-19. Patients infected with COVID-19 who undergo surgery have increased risks of complications and death, and the virus has been identified in some people who are completely well. Checking for the virus is therefore important prior to undergoing surgery. If you are found to have the virus, it is preferable to defer surgery for a period of time until you no longer have it.

At our hospitals, we have managed to minimise the risk of contracting COVID-19 by carrying out planned surgical services on separate sites from emergency admissions. Your doctors have carefully considered the benefits to you from undergoing surgery, as well as the small additional risk of complications related to COVID-19. They feel that surgery is in your best interest rather than waiting until this pandemic has fully passed, as this may take a long time.

If you have further questions or doubts regarding whether you wish to proceed with surgery, please contact your consultant's team or specialist nurse to discuss this.

Once the plan has been made for you to undergo surgery, it is important to look after your health and get regular exercise. There are also important measures that need to be taken to minimise the risks to you.

1. You and your family should isolate carefully at home for at least 2 weeks prior to surgery, in order to reduce the risk of your contracting the virus. You should not leave the house, and do not mix with anyone outside your household. If a family member needs to go to work regularly and has risk from this exposure, you should try and self-isolate at home as far as possible.
2. If you or a family member suffer from fever, cough, sore throat, malaise or fatigue, please call your team to discuss whether your operation should be postponed. The hospital team will also call you to check that everybody in your household has remained well.
3. You will be called to the hospital 2-3 days prior to surgery for a swab test to check for coronavirus. In certain situations, your team will also arrange a CT scan prior to surgery to check for any signs of COVID-19. If either of these tests show that you carry the virus, it would not be safe to proceed with surgery. Your surgery would then be rescheduled for a later date.

When you are discharged home after your operation, please remember to enforce the same rigorous self-isolation practices to stay safe.

We wish you well during this difficult period.

Please do not hesitate to call the **Pre-operative Admissions Team** if you have any questions or concerns.

Pre-operative Admissions Team

Tel: **01865 225 288**

If you need an interpreter or would like this information leaflet in another format, such as Easy Read, large print, Braille, audio, electronically or another language, please speak to the department where you are being seen. You will find their contact details on your appointment letter.

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OXFORD HOSPITALS CHARITY (REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1175809)



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