

Media Release

embargo until time/date

Date: 25 January 2021

Increased swabbing capacity at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital

The drive through testing centre at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital nearly doubled in size last night.

Between 11 pm last night and 3 am this morning, the Estates Team provided the swabbing teams with an additional 4.5 metres of capacity by extending the testing tent. This will allow 4 cars to be undercover at any one time and the flow through the tent will be more efficient.

In addition to the extension to the swabbing tent, Car Park C adjacent to the tent has been cordoned off to increase the queuing capacity.

This extension to the COVID-19 testing centre will allow at least 1,000 swabs to be taken daily.

Our Scheduling and Swabbing teams are now working between 8 am and 11 pm with Pathology staff working late into the night to provide swab results as quickly as possible.

If you are waiting to be contacted for a COVID-19 swab appointment please note that calls will come from a private number e.g. number withheld. If you are awaiting a call please ensure you have your phone with you as missed calls increase the workload for the scheduling team.

Please be patient whilst we prioritise who we call for testing. Please do not call Public health or the Scheduling Team.

If you have any clinical symptoms of COVID-19 please call the clinical helpline on 01481 01481 756938 or 01481 756969. Please do not call the clinical line for general advice – we have a non-clinical helpline for general callers 01481 717118.

Ends

Notes to Media

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