



## Media Release

embargo until time/date

**Date: 17 December 2021**

### Islanders are reminded to follow pre-operative advice before elective surgery

Following the announcement yesterday in respect of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, the Medical Specialist Group (MSG) and Health & Social Care (HSC) would like to remind patients who are booked for elective surgery to follow the pre-operative advice sent to them by MSG. In most cases this will be to take a lateral flow test for the 4 days prior to your surgery and a fifth one on arrival at the hospital on the date of your procedure. For other cases, depending on your particular circumstances, we may recommend that you avoid crowds (especially in enclosed spaces) or isolate ahead of an elective procedure.

If you discover that you test positive for COVID-19 when taking a lateral flow test, please call 01481 220001 or 01481 220002 to arrange for a PCR test. Please also call the MSG on 01481 238565 to advise them you have tested positive as they may be able to reallocate the surgery slot at short notice to someone else.

If you are identified as a contact of a person with COVID-19 you will be advised about any isolation or testing requirements by Public Health Services. Unfortunately, it would be necessary to postpone any appointment during the 10 days after contact unless it is very urgent. Please contact the MSG on 01481 238565 to advise them if this occurs.

MSG and HSC will continue to schedule elective work over Christmas and into the New Year and hope not to have to postpone surgery at the last minute. However, this is a possibility depending on a number of factors including the usual winter pressures on capacity and any potential impact from a wave of Omicron.

Postponements are never taken lightly, and we know the impact on individuals and the plans they have made. We thank the community for their understanding during this challenging period.

Ends