

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
BY DEPUTY M.R. HIGGINS OF ST. HELIER
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2021
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2021**

Question

Will the Minister advise, in relation to the number of cases of Covid-19 discovered in the Hospital since the start of the pandemic –

- (a) what system has been in place to screen patients before they are admitted;
- (b) whether any ongoing testing for the virus takes place in wards for longer-term patients and, if so, at what frequency; and
- (c) whether any patients were infected after admission by hospital staff?

Answer

Patients who are coming into hospital as planned admissions, for example, for surgery, are PCR-tested for Covid-19, 3 days prior to admission. The 'To Come In' (TCI) team books the patient's swab date and inform the patient by letter as to the appointment date and time. The patient attends the Overdale site for their swab to be taken by the swabbing team. The patient is then requested to self-isolate until the day of their admission to hospital.

For children and those patients who are unable to attend the Overdale site, arrangements are made for them to attend the swabbing centre at the airport.

Patients who are admitted to hospital as an emergency are screened on their arrival at hospital.

Ongoing testing for Covid-19 does take place; inpatients are routinely tested every 3 days during their hospital stay.

Where a patient has tested positive during their inpatient stay, they are categorised as outlined in the table below, dependent upon what day following admission to hospital they test positive.

Community-Onset, not Healthcare-Associated	Positive specimen date on day of admission or up to 2 days after admission.
Hospital-Onset Indeterminate Healthcare-Associated	Positive specimen date 3-7 days after admission, with no prior hospital admission in previous 14 days
Hospital-Onset Probable Healthcare-Associated	Positive specimen date 8-14 days after admission or specimen date 3-14 days after admission, with prior admission in previous 14 days
Hospital-Onset Definite Healthcare-Associated	Positive specimen date 15 or more days after admission

Once a patient has tested positive for Covid-19 they are not retested.

If a probable or definite hospital onset of COVID-19 is found, we have a set procedure to follow to investigate the root cause. To date, we have not identified any definite transmission of Covid-19 from any member of staff.