

GUIDELINE FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS TAKING SCREENING SWABS FOR COVID-19 FROM CHILDREN		
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### 1.0 Introduction

Healthcare Workers (HCW) in CHI at Crumlin carry out pre admission Covid-19 screening for children onsite in the Covid Screening Unit (CSU). Following the development of a Standard Operating Procedure(SOP) for Healthcare Workers taking screening swabs for Covid-19 from Children, this document is written in support of same. Development of both the SOP and Guidelines ensures continuity of practice and supports Quality within the CSU

### 2.0 Definition of Guideline

**Guidelines** represent the written instructions about how to ensure high quality services are delivered. Guidelines must be accurate, up to date, evidence-based, easy to understand, non-ambiguous and emphasize safety. When followed they should lead to the required standards of performance.

This Guideline aims to ensure screening is carried out in a uniform manner each time, for each child to maintain quality of the procedure and the service for children.

## 3.0 Applicable to

It is applicable to all healthcare workers in the CSU in CHI at Crumlin.

### 4.0 Objectives of the Guideline

- To ensure that staff undertaking the screening of pre admission children at CHI at the Crumlin site will perform this procedure in the same manner each time it is carried out.
- Staff are educated and trained in the process of swabbing children for Covid-19
- Staff are educated and trained in the application of PPE to prepare for swabbing of children for Covid-19
- To ensure staff will prepare appropriately for the swabbing process each time it is performed, adhering to the Hospital Infection Prevention Control Guidance (2020)
- Staff will do this procedure safely, bearing in mind their own personal safety
- Staff performing this procedure will do so wearing the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) each time

#### 5.0 Guidelines

- Instructions
- Assemble all supplies
- Ensure Parent understands and agrees to collection of the sample
  - o Explain procedure to parent and child in terms child will understand
  - o Explain to child what PPE you will wear when carrying out swab
  - Approach in a calm and friendly manner
  - o "A tickle in the nose"
- Involve the parent/ guardian is one of the best tools for cooperation of the child
- Before & after procedure Hand Hygiene
- Check child's details with parent
- Ensure child is in a safe, secure and comfortable position

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- Young child may sit on a parent's knee and one hand across child's body and the second hand on child's forehead
- Older children may sit on the seat if parent feels they will cooperate
- Many swabs have been taken when children have been sitting in car seats in the CSU
- Hold the swab in a pencil grip and insert into the nose

Less than 2 years
2-6years
6-12 years
Over 12 years
1.5cm
2cm
2-3cms

- Insert the swab into the nostril, rotate the swab 5 times and repeat in the second nostril.
- Remove swab, insert in the transport medium and break off top of swab at mark/notch.
- Secure lid securely
- Reassure child and parent
- Hand hygiene throughout as per Hospital protocol
- Remove PPE as per Hospital protocol
- Let parent know pathway for their child's test results
- Results will be delivered to child's Consultant's team
- Dispose of used equipment as per hospital protocol
- Ensure safe speedy delivery of sample, correctly labelled to Lab
- Ensure a record is kept of the child's details and hospital number.
- Please note a HSE video demonstrating the sample collection technique is available at the following link https://bit.ly/3efCPO2

### 6.0 Implementation Plan

This document should be made available to healthcare staff working in the CSU. The detail of this guideline should be followed by each HCW taking swabs in the CSU in CHI at Crumlin.

### 7.0 Evaluation and Audit

Evaluation of this guideline should be carried out and the document should be modified as required.

### 8.0 References

- HSE (2020). Guidance on Collection of a Deep Nasal/Mid-turbinate Swab for testing for Covid-19.
   Dublin: Health Service Executive. Download date: 07/10/2021.
  - Link to Item <a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10147/628357">http://hdl.handle.net/10147/628357</a>
- Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne(2020) Clinical Practice Guidelines:Covid-19 swabbing Link to item <a href="https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guidelineindex/COVID-19swabbing/">https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guidelineindex/COVID-19swabbing/</a>
- NPDC, CHI (2020) Standard Operating Procedure for Nursing Staff taking swabs for Covid 19 from Healthcare Workers. NSTSC19-03-20sop

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