



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
 - Explain procedure to parent and child in terms child will understand
 - Explain to child what PPE you will wear when carrying out swab
 - Approach in a calm and friendly manner
 - "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

