

# Covid Swab Testing

## Turn-around times and Capacity - from November 2020

Information for clinicians explaining the limitations of Covid testing availability and turn-around times with current resources



### **MCOR / Pink Sticker**

Used for symptomatic,  
urgent admissions / surgery

#### **25 tests per day**

3 - SAU

22 - ED

Testing process takes 90 minutes:  
tests can be run independently  
**BUT** a maximum of 8 swabs can be  
processed at any one time

Example delay scenarios:

1. New swab arrives while all slots running, wait for first available slot - results arrive after **2-4 hours**.
2. Equipment failure, new swab processed on amber pathway - results arrive after +4 hours.



### **MOCOR**

Used for urgent SAU and  
ED admissions

#### **c.150 tests per day (4-5 runs)**

Stage 1 - Extraction

1 hr 30 mins - capacity 24

Stage 2 - Amplification

2 hrs 30 mins - capacity 96 x 2

Testing process takes 4-8 hours  
**BUT** in order to maximise daily  
output samples may be queued at  
each stage until capacity reached

Example delay scenarios:

1. High volume of swabs received causes queueing at Stage 1 and 2 - results take up to **8 hours** to arrive.
2. Equipment failure, new swab processed on green pathway - results arrive after +8 hours.



### **MPCOR / MSCOR**

Used for routine surgery  
and staff testing

#### **Run alongside routine work**

Part of 24 hour service

Daily capacity varies dependent  
on routine virology workload

Testing process takes up to 8 hours  
**BUT** resources must be shared  
with other routine testing,  
limiting capacity and timings

Example delay scenarios:

1. New swab arrives as part of large batch - results arrive within **24 hours**.
2. Equipment failure, backlog created, swab tested next day - results arrive after +24 hours.

**Please ensure all communication with lab staff is polite and respectful to avoid placing them under additional pressure**