



COVID-19 Pre-Admission Certification

Thank you for performing the pre-admission COVID-19 test to allow for pre-approved admission certification. Below is some pertinent information regarding your test.

Why is a pre-admission test required?

We can no longer know with certainty who has and does not have COVID – 19 infection based on your history of travel, co-living contact and exposure alone. The current community outbreak means that the virus can appear in any part of our community, and the presence of pre-symptomatic carriers (patients who do not have symptom yet do carry the virus with the potential of spreading) means that unbeknownst to patients, contamination may occur.

At Matilda, we have created a physical barrier between the outside and the hospital by careful triage, masking of all personnel, excluding infections from entering the hospital and many other measures.

We are now of the opinion that all admitted patients should be COVID-free immediately prior to admission.

The advantage of a pre-admission test as opposed to an in-admission test is the avoidance of the uncertainty, when doing an in-admission test the result of which may take several hours and is also much more expensive to perform.

What Information do we need from you?

To process your test, we need your personal data to match the hospital records, and to allow communication with you, the laboratory performing the test, and the Department of Health. We will record your email and telephone number to communicate the test results.

Where can I do the test?

There are many facilities in Hong Kong that can provide such test.

We suggest you to contact your doctor's clinic to arrange the test. If it is not available, you can do it at the Matilda Medical Centre in Central, Matilda Clinic in Caine Road or the Outpatient Department at the hospital.

At Matilda, we provide the throat swap or deep throat saliva test for preadmission screening purpose.

How is the test done?

Matilda has engaged several government accredited laboratories to assist with pre-admission screening.

This is a simple test requiring you to produce a saliva specimen of the deeper areas of the throat. Instructions with illustrations will be given to you. Please do the sampling in the morning before breakfast, coffee, any cigarettes or brushing your teeth. The specimen, in its protective biohazard bag, can be dropped in the Matilda Medical Centre in Central before 10 am or the Outpatient Department at the hospital before 9am.

You may refer to this link for how to save the saliva specimen provided by Department of Health:

(http://videocwp.ha.org.hk/wmv/deep%20throat%20saliva_Eng%20v1.mp4)

How much is the test?

Depending on the type of test you choose and the location, the price of the test might vary. If you choose to do the test through Matilda, there is a reduced rate available to patients with a booked admission. The test fee is \$1,200. This will be billed to your inpatient invoice.

When is the result available?

If you do the test with us, the processing time will be 36-48 hours. With the current national pressure on testing, this may take longer time, however our experience so far has been an average time of 36 hours. If your test result is negative, you will receive the report after your procedure at discharge. Generally, these are the possible outcomes:

Negative: No viral RNA has been detected

False negative: Some patients with covid virus infection may have a negative result if the collected sputum does not contain the viral RNA. This is called a false negative test. If your test is negative and over the next few days you develop symptoms of an upper airway infection, fever or feel unwell, please check with your doctor, as you may be asked to repeat the test and reschedule your admission.

True negative: If you have no symptoms of an upper airway infection or fever after doing the test, this result means no covid virus infection, and you can be admitted to hospital as scheduled.

Failed test: The laboratory checks the quality of the specimen and may report an inadequate specimen. In this case the test needs to be repeated without an additional charge.

Positive: This means that viral RNA has been detected in the saliva sample or throat sample. False positive tests may occur but are very unlikely. In case of a positive test, the doctor of Matilda is obliged to notify your results to the Department of Health and steps will be taken by them to contact you and arrange further care under the public system. You will be contacted by us or your doctor on what steps to take which will involve you isolating yourself, and wearing a mask at all times.

What is the validity of the result?

The test result, counting from the day you produced the sample, is valid for 6 days. Any shorter time would make it difficult for you to organise the certification and any longer time will not protect you or the hospital for infections taking place after you have done the test.

If you choose to carry out the test with other clinics or laboratory, please send the certificate to cv19@matilda.org before your admission to the hospital.

What happens if you do not take the test?

If you present for admission without a certification, Matilda will not be able to admit you. A limited supply of in-house testing for emergencies is available at a higher cost. If the test is available, you will be kept isolated until the result is known, which may take 4 hours or longer, and additional cost to your hospital stay will be incurred. It is in your best interest to have a valid certificate.

What do you need to consider further?

As the virus has taken a hold in our community, it is important that while waiting for admission, you and your close contacts, particularly those you live with, follow the government guidelines carefully in regards to social distancing and personal hygiene. You may also refer to our Matilda website for further information about our preventative measures.

(<https://www.matilda.org/en/about/news/1289-preventative-measures>)

If you or anyone close to you, develop symptoms that may be consistent with a COVID-19 infection, or if you have been in contact with someone with a positive test, please let your doctor know as soon as possible as you may need to reschedule your admission.

Should you have any questions regarding the Pre-admission Covid-19 test, please contact the Patient Service Centre at 2849 0111 or psc@matilda.org.

Reference from HA:



Hospital Authority
Patient Information Sheet on Deep Throat Saliva Collection



Scan QR code for the demonstration video

Time of specimen collection: After getting up and before brushing teeth, eating or drinking

Steps:

1. Prepare the items, including one specimen bottle and two specimen bags provided by AED / GOPC, and tissue
2. Perform hand hygiene with soap and water / alcohol-based hand rub
3. Check whether the personal details printed on the specimen bottle are correct
4. Open the specimen bottle and specimen bags
5. Make the noise of "Kruuua" from the throat to clear saliva from deep throat
6. Remove surgical mask and spit saliva (about 4 ml) into the bottle. Avoid saliva contaminate the outer surface of the bottle.
(Repeat the previous step if the saliva volume is too little to fill up the bottom of the bottle)
7. Put on surgical mask
8. Close the lid of specimen bottle tightly to ensure no leakage of saliva
9. Clean the bottle surface with tissue
10. Put the bottle into specimen bag and then the 2nd bag. Keep the bottle upright all the time. Clean hands afterwards.

Hospital Authority (Updated in May 2020)