**Important information about your admission to hospital during COVID-19**

**Please read immediately**

Coming into hospital during these uncertain times can be concerning for lots of people. It is important that we protect you, your family members, and other visitors to our hospital. By following the guidance below, we are able to make your visit to hospital low risk. All of our patients will be screened to prior to entering the hospital, and all staff have adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure your safety as well as their own.

**Symptoms**

If you or anyone in your household have experienced COVID-like symptoms, you must follow government guidelines and self-isolate for 14 days. Symptoms include a new cough, a temperature, and loss of taste or smell. If you develop any of these, or if you are unsure about any new symptoms, please do not attend for your appointment. Please call **020 7188 9198** and leave a message for our team. We will call to reschedule your appointment. If you require more urgent care or symptom advice during this time, please use the NHS 111 (website or phone) or emergency services on 999.

**Pre-assessment**

Before your procedure, we will call you to discuss your health and those in your household.

**If you have not received this call from us 5 days prior to your procedure please call us on 020 7188 9198.**

You will be required to come to St Thomas’ Hospital 48 hours prior to your admission for a COVID swab and routine blood tests. (For Monday procedures, this will be arranged for the preceding Friday). An appointment for this will be arranged on the phone. This will be in the Cardiac Investigation Unit (CIU), Ground Floor East Wing. Please see the enclosed map for directions.

**It is mandatory that all patients attend this appointment.** If your swab result is positive, we will likely reschedule your procedure.

**Transport**

To protect yourself and other patients during this time, we ask that you **do not use public transport** to attend hospital on the day of your pre-assessment or on the day of your procedure. If no parking is available in the hospital, there are carparks located on Upper Marsh (off Royal Street) or Leake Street (off York Road). If you travel in a car with anyone from outside of your own household you should wear a face-covering or mask. If you do not have available transport please discuss with our transport team on 020 7188 2888.

**Drop-off and collection**

**There is a no visitor policy in the hospital at this time.**

Please arrive to the Lower Ground Floor Lambeth Wing. You will be met there by a nurse from the unit who will escort you to the ward.

**Property**

Please only bring one small bag of essential into hospital with you. We aim for the procedure to be performed as a day case so that you can be discharged by the end of the day.