



BEAUMONT HOSPITAL

# Beaumont Initiative in Barrier-Free SARS-CoV-2 Testing

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## INTRODUCTION

The role of hospital-acquired SARS-CoV-2 infection is now increasingly established in recent times. An estimated one-third of Irish hospital patients with Covid-19 contracted the virus while being treated as inpatient for some other illness. As pre-symptomatic and symptomatic Health Care Workers carries almost identical viral load capable of onward transmission to patients and fellow workers, early diagnosis and subsequent exclusion of affected staffs have therefore a pivotal role in reducing the risk of healthcare-associated infections. The need for a broad appropriation of an efficient and easily accessible screening program for health care workers in a patient-facing role therefore becoming increasingly recognized. A barrier-free approach for testing staff has officially started in Beaumont hospital on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020 with online “choose and book” system.



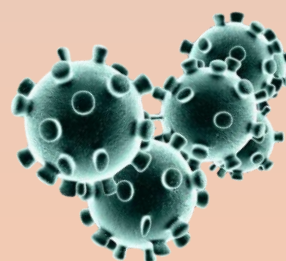
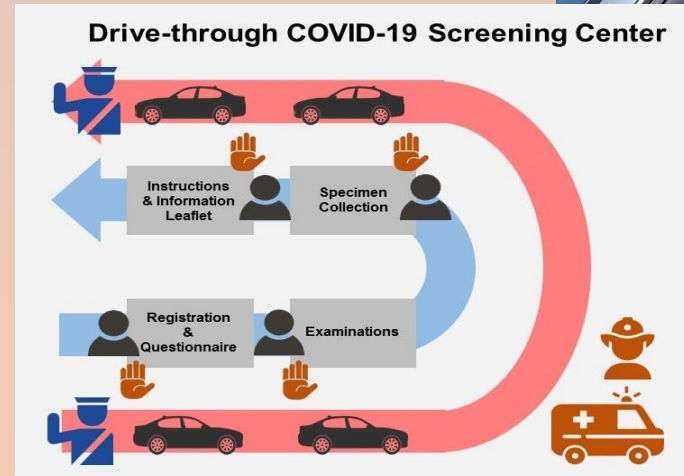
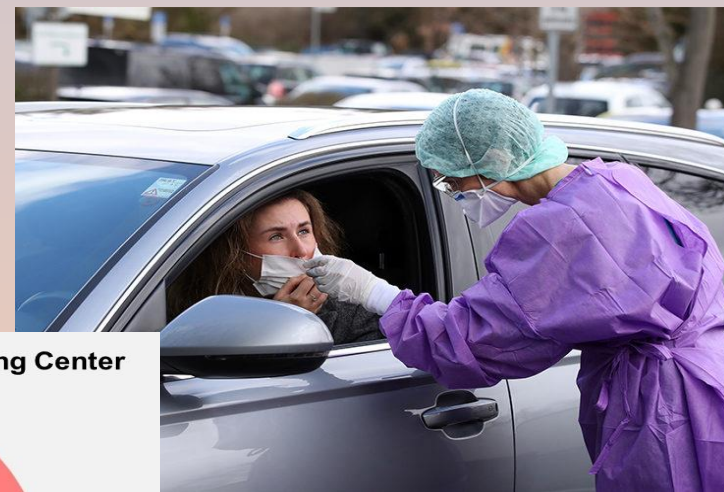
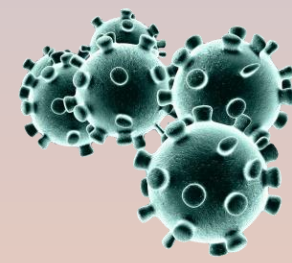
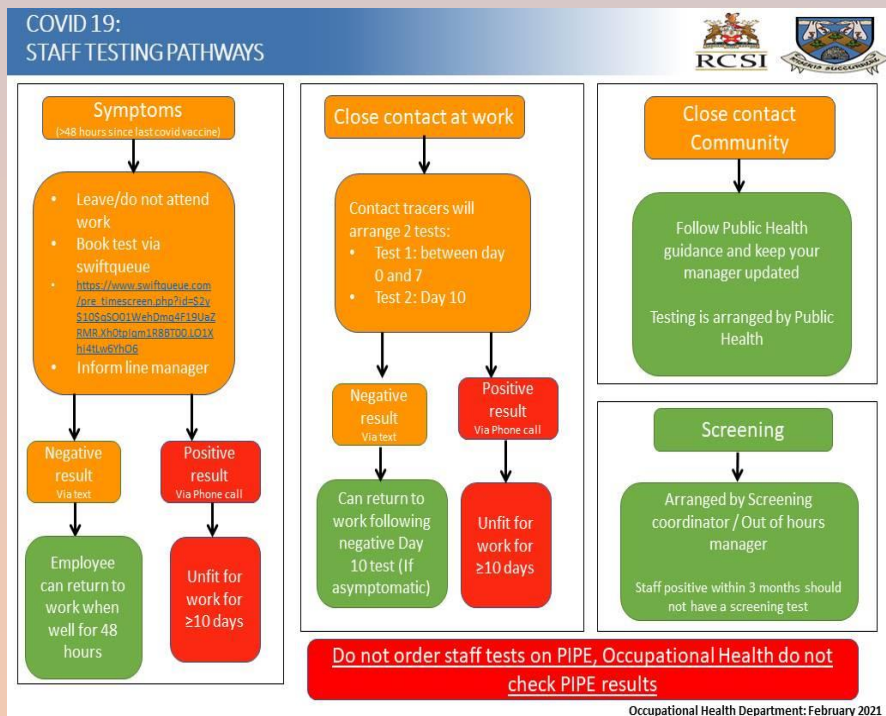
## METHOD

“Choose and book” system where staff members book a convenient slot for nasopharyngeal PCR test via an online platform.



## RESULT

- Since the introduction of choose and book screening, there was not even a single week where all available appointments were utilized, the new screening system in this way allowed us to track activity and to ensure that services were never overwhelmed.
- Pod admins were keen on facilitating appointments for staff who genuinely needed one but failed to get through choose and book system.
- Conducive for large volume of test to address increased demand for screening during outbreak.
- No need for staff members to contact occupational health to arrange a screening test.
- Redeployment of occupational health staff for contact tracing and other activities as they no longer had to triage calls and list for test.
- Average waiting time (between booking an appointment and having a result) is relatively lower than the traditional occupational health led system.
- No major misuse of the system from staff noticed at any point.



## CONCLUSION

The new “choose and book” system is not only conducive for large volume of test but has an added advantage of redeployment of occupational health staff. This barrier-free approach in testing provides rapid and effective access to healthcare staff irrespective of their symptoms. Additionally, a screening system without gatekeepers could generate a habit of frequent Covid -19 screening among hospital staff which in turn protects even healthcare staff working in other healthcare settings who is cohabiting with them.