

## Patient information factsheet

# Drive-through blood test service

We are now offering blood tests to people aged over 16 years at our drive-through centre at Adanac Park, Southampton. This factsheet provides information about this service and explains what will happen at your appointment. If you have any questions or would like more information please speak to a member of your healthcare team.

### About the drive-through blood test service

The drive-through blood test service is designed to make it quicker and easier for you to have a blood test as it reduces the need to visit the hospital. You can attend the drive-through service as either a driver or a passenger. The blood test will take place whilst you are sitting in your car.

### Do I need to book?

Yes - all appointments must be booked in advance. You can book or amend an appointment online at: <https://patientbooking.uhs.nhs.uk>, or call: **023 8120 4877**.

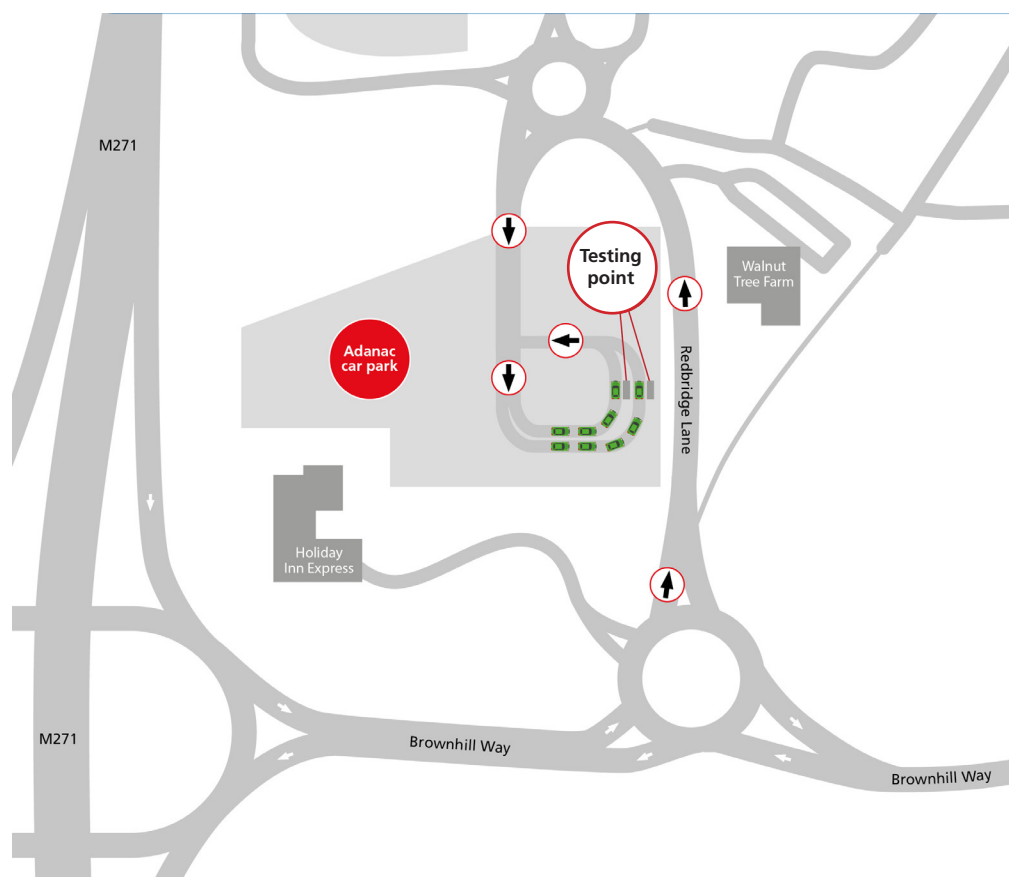
### Location

The drive-through blood test centre is located at:

- **Adanac Park, Adanac Drive, Southampton SO16 0AU.**

This is a drive-through service, there is no need to park.

### Map



## Important information

- When you arrive, you must stay inside your car.
- This is drive-through service only. You should not arrive on foot or get out of your car at any time during your visit.
- Please wear a face covering when attending your appointment unless you are exempt.

## Directions

- **If you are approaching from the direction of Southampton General Hospital:** drive past David Lloyd on your right, through the traffic lights and at the next roundabout take the third exit, marked Adanac Park.
- Continue to the next roundabout, then take the first exit into the 'Park and Ride'.
- **If you are coming off Junction 1 of the M271:** take the exit towards Adanac Park.
- Stay in the left hand lane and at the next roundabout take the second exit towards Adanac Park.
- Continue to the next roundabout, then take the first exit into the 'Park and Ride'.
- When you arrive, there will be someone at the gate to meet you, check your name and direct you where to go.

## What to expect at your appointment

Drive into the test centre and stop where indicated. Turn off the car engine, and wind down your car window. The person performing the test (a nurse or other healthcare professional) will verify your details and talk you through the process.

You will normally be asked to place your arm through your car window, or we may ask you to open your car door. Please keep your seatbelt on.

We will then take a blood sample from a blood vessel (vein), normally in your arm.

If you don't like needles or blood, or if you feel dizzy or faint during the test, tell the person taking your sample so that they can make you more comfortable. This may mean reclining the back of your car seat. After your test, we may ask you to wait a few minutes before leaving.

## How is the blood sample taken?

A tight band (tourniquet) is usually placed around your upper arm. This makes it easier for the sample to be taken. Your skin will be cleaned with an antiseptic wipe. A needle attached to a syringe or special container is inserted into the vein.

You may feel a slight prickling or scratching sensation as the needle goes in, but it shouldn't be painful.

When the sample has been taken, the tight band will be released, and the needle removed. Pressure is applied to the skin using a cotton-wool pad, and a plaster may be put on the small wound to keep it clean.

Only a small amount of blood is taken during the test so you shouldn't feel any significant after-effects. You may have a small bruise where the needle went in.

## How to prepare for your blood test

The healthcare professional who arranges your blood test will tell you whether there are any specific instructions you need to follow before your test. It is important to follow any instructions you have been given, as it may affect the result of the test or mean it needs to be delayed or

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carried out again.

You will be asked to uncover your arm for the test, so you may wish to wear loose or easily removable clothing.

## Results

Your test results will be communicated to you by your clinical team.

## Is there anyone who cannot use this service?

The service is for adults aged over 16 years only.

## You cannot use the drive-through blood test service if :

- you are under 16 years old
- you arrive on foot, or by bike, motorbike, scooter, or in a vehicle exceeding 2.6 metres in height.
- if you need significant additional support to have a blood test (for example, you are needle phobic, have poor veins, or have fainted having a blood test in the past).

## Blood tests that must be carried out at the hospital

Some blood tests cannot be performed at this site, you will need to visit the main hospital site for the following tests:

- renin/aldosterone
- plasma lactate
- thrombophilia screening
- glucose tolerance tests
- synacthen tests
- ammonia
- blood tests that you need to pay a private patient fee for.

There may be some other tests that we cannot perform at this site, in this case you would be directed to one of our other locations.

## I may have COVID-19 symptoms, what should I do?

If you test positive for COVID-19 or have the symptoms below, you should not come to your appointment.

## Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) include:

- a new cough
- fatigue
- sudden loss of taste and smell
- high temperature

## Symptoms may also include:

- diarrhoea and vomiting
- new onset joint pains.

## How to cancel or rearrange your appointment

If you need to cancel or rearrange your appointment visit: <https://patientbooking.uhs.nhs.uk> or call: **023 8120 4877**.

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## Useful links

NHS website – Blood tests

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/blood-tests/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/blood-tests/)

NHS website - Check if you have coronavirus symptoms

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/)

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For help preparing for your visit, arranging an interpreter or accessing the hospital, please visit **www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalsupport**