

FAQs FOR COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE TESTING

Updated 13 February 2023

Executive Summary

Singapore will exit the acute phase of Pandemic from 13 February 2023 onwards.

To safeguard the safety and welfare of our patients and visitors, inpatients may have up to 2 visitors at their bedside each time. For patients who require a caregiver during the admission due to their medical condition, these 2 visitors are in addition to your spouse caregiver (for O&G patients) and parent caregiver (for paediatric patients).

All visitors are encouraged to have a valid negative ART result within the last 24 hours prior to visiting inpatients. Visitors to hospital wards are required to don face masks with good filtration capability, including surgical masks or reusable masks made of two layers of fabric.

Routine COVID-19 surveillance testing for inpatients is currently not mandatory. On a case-by-case basis, COVID-19 PCR or ART tests may be ordered for patients or caregivers who have symptoms of COVID-19 or had recent close contact with COVID-19 positive persons.

For maternity patients, your husband may accompany you during your labour in the Delivery Suite/Operating Theatre. For patients in single rooms, your husband may be allowed to stay over as your companion. For paediatric patients, one parent may be allowed to stay over.

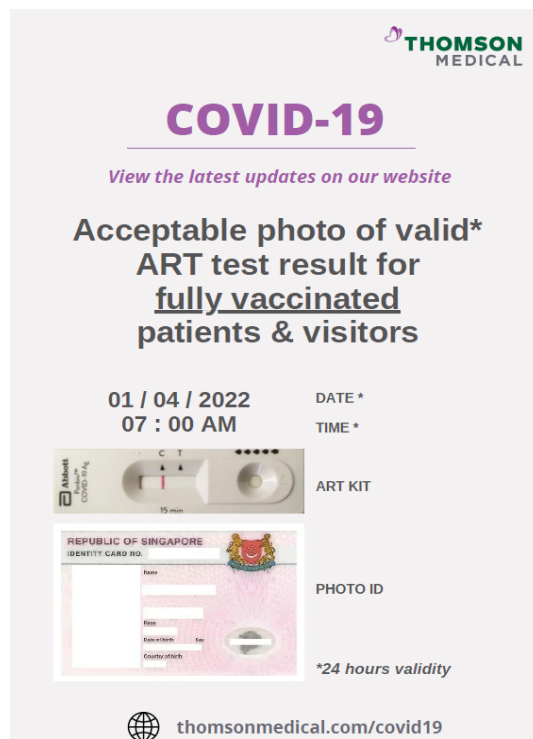
MOH and TMC will continue to closely monitor the situation and calibrate measures as appropriate, to safeguard the safety and welfare of all our patients and visitors.

At TMC, your safety is always our top priority.

(A) COVID-19 Surveillance Testing

1. What is a valid negative ART result?

- A valid negative ART result refers to either of the following:
 - a) An official supervised negative ART test result in your Trace Together (TT) app or Healthhub within the last 24 hours.
 - b) A photo of your negative ART test result within the last 24 hours, in the standard format below may be shown if it fulfils the following criteria (refer to picture A below).



Picture A

2. Who will require a COVID-19 ART swab test?

- Examples include persons with ARI symptoms, and persons who are in recent close contact with a COVID-19 positive person.
- Higher-risk patients (e.g. immunocompromised groups, those with serious cardiac/respiratory conditions, BMI \geq 32, patients with uncontrolled diabetes mellitus)

3. What if I am unable to do the nasal swab due to medical conditions?

- Please inform our staff if you have any medical conditions that may make you unsuitable for a nasal swab e.g. frequent nose bleeds, operations on face/nose area, tumours/cancers of nose and throat, any facial or skull fractures etc.
- You may request for an oral-pharyngeal swab.
- You can also decline to proceed with the swab.

4. I am tested to be ART/PCR positive while in TMC. Are there additional charges?

- TMC is not a dedicated facility for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.
- Some patients may initially be ART-negative due to the incubation period of the disease, and only test positive after admission to TMC.
- If you are tested to be ART or PCR positive while admitted in TMC, you will be required to stay in a negative-pressured isolation room with additional isolation precautions and these will incur additional charges.
 - For normal delivery, a one-time charge of \$150 will be incurred for the Isolation Birth Room, if used.
 - For surgeries, a one-time charge of \$250 will be incurred for the Isolation Operating Room, if used.
 - You will be billed for the difference, if any, between the cost of the negative pressured isolation room used during the actual stay versus the cost of your room booked,
 - There will also be a daily PPE charge of \$100 per day.
- Your baby will be required to room-in with you in the negative-pressured facility, and there will be an incremental charge of \$105 per day in your baby's Daily Treatment Fee (DTF).
- Please approach our Patient Service Counter (PSC) in advance for more information pertaining to the additional charges.

(B) Visitor Policy

5. Am I allowed to visit the inpatient ward?

- Each admitted patient will be allowed up to 2 visitors at their bedside each time. The hospital visiting hours are between 1pm to 8pm daily.
- As part of social responsibility, all visitors are encouraged to have a valid negative ART swab test result within 24 hours prior to visiting patients in the wards.
- Visitors may proceed to our 24Hr Family Clinic to opt for a supervised ART swab test (chargeable).

6. What precautions do I have to abide by as a visitor?

- Visitors to hospital wards must always don face masks with good filtration capability, including surgical masks or reusable masks made of two layers of fabric.
- Visitors should not eat or drink in the hospital wards or use patient's toilets in the wards and should also avoid sitting on patients' beds.

(C) Contact Information

7. If I wish to undergo a supervised outpatient swab, please approach our 24Hr Family Clinic?

TMC 24-Hour Family Clinic

- Thomson Medical Centre, Level 1
- 339 Thomson Road, Singapore 307677
- Open 24 hours, 7 days a week
- Appointment Line: 6350 8812
- Email: opd@thomsonmedical.com