

All Cervical Screening Sample Takers in London
STP Medical and Nursing leads
Practice Lead GPs
Practice Managers
CASH services
Trust Gynaecology leads
Trust Cervical Screening Programme Leads
CCG Chief Officers
London LMC

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Restoration of Cervical Screening Invitations

1. Restoration of Invitation and Reminder Letter Intervals

To support providers to respond to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the intervals at which invitation and reminder letters are issued for the NHS Cervical Screening Programme were extended. As a result, invitations have been issued 12 weeks (rather than the usual 4 weeks) after Prior Notification Lists were sent to GP practices and reminder letters have been sent 30 weeks after the initial invite, rather than the usual 18 weeks.

From 6th June 2020, intervals for invitation and reminder letters will begin to return to normal. Therefore, you should expect to start receiving more requests for appointments and should ensure that appointments are offered to women who are eligible and due to be screened.

2. Proactive Identification

You should review your local records or use your final non-responder lists to identify individuals whose screening may have been affected by COVID-19 (for example, their appointment didn't go ahead and needs to be rebooked, or where it wasn't possible to offer an appointment during the pandemic response, or where they have not responded to a reminder letter) and be proactive in contacting them about their screening and giving them opportunity to attend.

3. Deferrals

You must only defer individuals for screening in accordance with [programme guidance](#) and may not use the deferral process to postpone invitations for any other reason. The "practice invitation" reason for delaying screening that may have been used initially in the early part of the COVID-19 response, should no longer be used.

4. Older women:

Some older women who are due, or became overdue in the last 6 months, for their final routine screen may have had limited opportunity to make that appointment due to COVID-19. These are women who are aged between 59 and 64 and they remain eligible to be tested.

Records should be carefully checked to ensure they have the opportunity to attend for this last routine screening test; you can use your final non-responder lists to help with this. Proactive contact could then be made to check the woman's intentions in relation to her screening.



Where there is any concern that the laboratory may not accept the test due to the age of the woman, you should ensure that the sample request is marked as “test delayed due to COVID-19”.

5. Infection Prevention Control

You are responsible for determining local arrangements for use of personal protective equipment (PPE). This will be informed by national guidance for use of PPE by health and social care workers on COVID-19 primary, outpatient and community care.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877599/T2_Recommended_PPE_for_primary_outpatient_and_community_care_by_setting_poster.pdf

and the London Principles of Managing Infection Prevention and Control in General Practice whilst caring for all patients during the COVID19 Pandemic.



Primary Care
Infection Control Guid

6. Sample Collection Service

Please note you will need to email or call the CSL laboratory collections service on couriers@tdlpathology.com or 020 7307 7373 to arrange sample collection and transport. You will hear from CSL when the routine collection service will resume.

7. Further Queries

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Maggie Luck at maggie.luck@nhs.net
We are developing a series of frequently asked questions (FAQs), which will be sent out shortly.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Liz Wise'.

Liz Wise
Director – Primary Care and Public Health Commissioning