

# Progress Update on the Recovery of Cervical Screening



## Are CSL sample numbers increasing?

Yes, sample numbers continue to increase as primary and secondary care sites respond to the information provided in recent communications from NHSE/I.

The most recent letters from NHSE/I informed you that intervals for issuing invitation letters would be returning to the standard 4 weeks after the e-PNL is issued to practices, and asked you to assist recruitment by utilising your own practice records to identify and pro-actively contact:

- Non-responders who have previously been invited to screen
- Older women who should complete their final screening test. Some eligible women who were close to the maximum age limit before the Covid crisis may now be technically above the eligibility age. They should still be screened and you should clearly mark 'Test delayed due to Covid-19' on the request form so the lab will not reject the sample.

## Have CSL couriers resumed their regular runs?



As sample numbers have increased over the last few weeks, CSL couriers have returned to their previous run schedules and you should now be getting regular pick-ups. It is important that your practice bar code ID card is accessible to facilitate tracking of the sample bags.

CSL couriers are finding that some practices remain closed or have adjusted their opening hours. If they call and the practice is not attended, they will leave a calling card to let you know they have been.

If you need to adjust pick up times or have queries about courier pick-ups, please contact our courier department by email at [couriers@tdlpathology.com](mailto:couriers@tdlpathology.com) or by phoning 020 7307 7373.

## Has CSL key contact information been updated?

Yes, accompanying this communication is an updated key contacts sheet. Most of the contact details remain the same, however we have new NHS email addresses to support our direct referral and MDT activities, which are mainly used by secondary care. Please ensure you replace any printed versions of the contact list with this updated version.

## What if women are worried about attending?

Many women will be anxious about attending healthcare facilities and having a sample taken during the Covid crisis. They will want to know what has changed and what they should expect when they attend for screening.

Jo's Trust and NHSE/I have put together a helpful FAQ document to assist in addressing women's barriers to screening during the Covid-19 crisis. It can be accessed at: <https://www.jostrust.org.uk/information/coronavirus/faqs>.

## What should I do to make my site safe to collect cervical screening samples?

All workplaces have had to conduct risk assessments and make physical and procedural adjustments to ensure they take practical measures to comply with government guidance, and minimise the spread of Covid-19.



You should refer to the infection control guidance documents below to assess the risks at your clinic and adjust processes accordingly.

- London Principles of Managing Infection Prevention and Control in General Practice whilst caring for all patients during the COVID-19 Pandemic – included with this update.
- [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](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).

Your local CCG or PCN may also have resources available to assist you.

### My practice is not connected to CSL for electronic results and requests, what should I do?

It is vitally important that we minimise data errors and avoid unnecessary recollection of samples.

To ensure all information provided on labels and request forms is accurate, and you receive your results electronically, please make sure you have completed the necessary steps to secure your connection to CSL.

If your practice is not yet successfully connected to CSL for test ordering via tQuest and electronic result delivery, you should **complete this process now** by following the procedures previously distributed in Sample Taker Updates 3 & 4 and the supporting pictorial guides which remain available on our website [www.hslpathology.com/csl](http://www.hslpathology.com/csl).

If you have any difficulties or queries, or require label printing functionality, please contact our helpdesk via email [helpdesk@tdlpathology.com](mailto:helpdesk@tdlpathology.com) or by phoning 020 7307 7365.

### Do I need to review the cervical screening sample acceptance criteria?

Many women will be anxious about coming into clinical settings due to the continuing risk of Covid-19 infection. It is therefore very important that when they attend, their samples are not rejected because they do not meet the programme's acceptance criteria.

Please review the sample acceptance criteria document at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/669132/Guidance-for-acceptance-of-cervical-screening-samples.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/669132/Guidance-for-acceptance-of-cervical-screening-samples.pdf).

### Have CSL sample packaging requirements changed?

No, there has been no change to the way you package CSL sample for transport to the laboratory.

Please continue to place samples in the clearly identifiable purple CSL transport bags. **Remember to seal the bag** to ensure samples cannot fall out and attach a bar code label in the area indicated on the bag. Place the sealed, barcoded purple bag in the agreed CSL courier pick up spot for collection.

#### **DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES PLACE NON-CSL SAMPLES IN THE PURPLE BAGS**

If blood or other samples are placed in CSL transport bags, you risk them being lost, significantly delayed and likely to require recollection which could have a critical impact on patient care.

CSL would like to thank all practice staff and sample takers for their ongoing co-operation during the Covid-19 crisis. We look forward to ongoing communication with you through our regular sample taker updates, and to working with you to support the recovery of the cervical screening services that are so important to the ongoing health of the women of London.

**STAY ALERT – CONTROL THE VIRUS – SAVE LIVES**

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