

Patient-Provider Discussion Guide: Considerations for Surgery During COVID-19

Currently, the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that causes COVID-19 illness is widespread throughout many communities around the world. It is essential to continue to practice social distancing and other precautionary measures as recommended by your federal, state and local government agencies to protect yourself and your family. For additional considerations and tools regarding reducing your risk of exposure to COVID-19, consider consulting public health guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC).

COVID-19 has changed the way we manage our everyday lives, but it has not eliminated the need to seek health care treatment. If you have questions or need care, please reach out to your provider. This discussion guide includes questions that may help you identify the steps your provider is taking before, during and after your procedure to potentially reduce risk while still allowing treatment for your condition.

Pre-Surgical Office Visit

- If I have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in contact with someone that does, can I proceed with my appointment? Is it safe for me to have my surgery?
- Will I require screening or testing for SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19?
- Will you take my temperature?
- Is remote, phone or telehealth an option for my office visit?
- What protective measures can I take when I arrive? Do I need to wear a mask or face covering?
- What protective measures will my surgical team be taking when I arrive? Will they be wearing a mask or face covering?
- Do I wait inside my vehicle or come inside to check in?
- If I come inside, is there adequate spacing between seats (at least 6 feet)?
- Will there be physical barriers – such as glass or plexiglass at check-in?



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Your Operation

- What can I do at home before and after surgery to decrease my risk of contracting the virus?
- Will I need to visit other areas of the facility for tests or exams? Or do I go to a different place than where I checked in?
- Can I bring a family member or someone to accompany me? Can they wait with me before and after my surgery?
- Will I be in an area close to where patients have COVID-19?
- Are there safety measures in hallways and other common areas, like hand hygiene and masks?
- What special precautions are you taking to ensure the operating room is safe from COVID-19?
- What precautions does the surgical team take to stay safe?

Post-Surgical Care and Your Recovery

- Are there any special precautions I need to know about when I am in the recovery area (post-anesthesia care unit)?
- If I stay overnight and receive food, are there any special precautions they take when preparing items?
- Will having this procedure put me at higher risk for COVID-19 as I recover?
- What happens if I develop symptoms of COVID-19 after my surgery?
- How will you update my family or those accompanying me on my well-being?
- After I am discharged, will I have to take special precautions for physical or social distancing? If so, for how long?
- Is remote, phone or telehealth an option for post-surgery check-ups?
- Are home health care services offered as an option during recovery? If so, what precautions do they need to take?
