

Provider-Patient COVID-19 Health & Social Responsibility Collaboration

In the setting of the current COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical to our patients' health and successful surgical outcomes to avoid COVID-19 infection after surgery.

During these restrictive times, the very act of leaving home and coming to an ambulatory surgery center (ASC) carries some inherent risk of SARS-CoV-2 exposure, and then COVID-19 disease. Therefore, it is incumbent on surgeons, their teams, and their facilities to provide as safe and sanitary a patient surgical experience as possible to achieve currently.

Patient, caregiver, and family/"dwelling partner" actions and behavior are even more critical to prevention of COVID-19 during the postoperative recovery phase of care, as it lasts much longer than just the day of surgery.

An infection of COVID-19 in a patient recovering from surgery not only threatens their life and health, but can lead to postoperative complications, and have permanent damaging effect on the outcome of their surgery. Therefore, a COVID-19 infection is critical to prevent.

The simplest, most scientifically proven prevention methods to date include:

- Social distancing of *at least* 6 feet between people at all times if possible.
- Minimizing interaction with other people except as necessary (eg. medical follow-up and physical therapy visits).
- Avoid any close contact with people who are sick with COVID-19 symptoms (cough, fever, body aches, loss of taste/smell).
- Frequent hand washing or sanitizing for at least 20 seconds each time, especially **before and after eating** or touching the face or nose, putting on and taking off face masks or coverings, and necessary touching of others (eg. patient medical care, changing surgical dressings, etc.).
- Regular and frequent cleansing of high-use surfaces (eg. counters, doorknobs, drawer, cupboards, and refrigerator handles) with soap, bleach, or germicidal/viricidal cleansers.
- Wearing a face mask or cloth covering nose and mouth when outside your home **at all times**; people can jog or ride their bike alongside someone while breathing heavily, before they know it.

We are still conducting preoperative COVID-19 testing of all surgery patients and require the use of face masks by all patients, visitors, & staff regardless of their immunization status until the local community guidelines change.

In order to provide you, your family, and those close to you the safest surgical experience possible, your surgeon/provider is asking you to voluntarily enter into this "Health and Social Responsibility Collaboration:"

Surgeon/Provider Understanding:

To the best of our ability, your surgeon, surgical team, and all of the ASC will collaborate to provide all of our patients with the safest and most sanitary surgical experience possible, to avoid the potential of COVID-19 and other diseases.

Patient Understanding:

To the best of my ability, I will collaborate to abide by the COVID-19 prevention measures listed above from now until at least the first 2 weeks after my surgery. I will collaborate to ask my caregivers, "dwelling partners", and those who come in near contact with me to do the same.