

Surgery during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Patient Instructions

COVID-19 is a strain of a common virus that causes colds and respiratory infections. Symptoms range from mild cold-like symptoms to severe illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Because COVID-19 is passed person-to-person, we have made changes in hospital to ensure we are keeping you, the other patients, and our staff safe.

What to expect when preparing for your surgery



Pre-Operative Phone Call

Before surgery, a QHC staff member will contact you by phone to ask a few screening questions, for example:

1. Have you traveled in the past 14 days?
2. Have you been in contact with a person who has COVID-19 or a respiratory illness?
3. Have you ever been told that you have COVID-19?
4. Do you have symptoms of COVID-19 such as: fever, cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing?

We appreciate you taking the time to answer all of these questions honestly.



COVID Testing

Depending on your screening you may be asked to have a COVID-19 test before your surgery. During this test a health care worker will put a swab (a long q-tip) in your nose to detect any virus. This test can be done very quickly. **If you need a pre-operative COVID test, you will be given more instructions from the hospital about where and when to go for your test.**

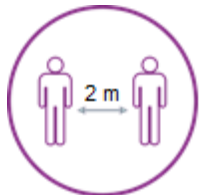
Testing is important; having surgery while you have an active COVID infection can be harmful.

What to expect in the hospital



Screening at the Doors

- Everyone who enters the hospital is screened for COVID-19.
- When entering, please use hospital hand sanitizer and wear a mask. **If you have a mask at home, bring it with you to wear.** If you do not, one will be given to you.
- **Please wear your mask unless you have medical condition which makes it unsafe for you to do so.**



Social Distancing & Cleaning

- We are following social distancing protocols. Furniture has been moved to make sure patients can sit 2 meters (6 feet) apart. Please help us by maintaining social distance.
- Strict cleaning protocols are followed in hospital. Areas and equipment are thoroughly disinfected between patient use.



Personal Protective Equipment

- Your surgical team will be wearing personal protective equipment. This may include masks, gowns, face shields, and goggles.
- These are tools that we use to keep you safe while we cannot maintain a physical distance. Please ask if you have any questions.

What you can do to help keep everyone safe

Practice physical distancing for **2 weeks** before your surgery

- As much as possible, try to physically distance before your surgery. This means limiting contact with people outside your household and not attending large gatherings.
- **You are still able to go to work and attend appointments**; please follow Public Health Guidelines.

Don't come to hospital if you are sick

- If you notice you have any COVID-19 symptoms on the day of your surgery, please **do not** come to hospital. These symptoms include:



Fever of
37.8°C or
higher



A new cough
or worsening
chronic cough



Shortness of
breath or trouble
breathing

- Call the Same Day Surgery Department to tell them you have developed symptoms. They will take your information and your surgeon will contact you.
Trenton Memorial Hospital Same Day Surgery: 613-392-2540 ext: 5591
Belleville General Hospital Same Day Surgery: 613-969-7400 ext: 2653

Wear a mask

- Make sure you wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose.
- Please wash your hands any time after you touch your mask.

Wash your hands

- Please use the available hand sanitizers to clean your hands.
- If you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or using your sleeve. Throw out used tissue and clean your hands using soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs.

Visitors

- On your day of surgery, 1 support person may come with you to the Same Day Surgery Department, however this person cannot remain in the waiting area due to limited space.
- Our visitor policy changes based on COVID-19 in the region; if you have questions please talk to your Nurse during your pre-operative assessment call or visit our website.

Pick up after Day Surgery

- You will enter and exit the hospital from the same entrance. In Belleville this is the **Charlotte Sills Entrance**, in Trenton this is the **Hospital Main Entrance**.
 - After surgery, your Recovery Room Nurse will call your driver when you are ready for discharge. You will be transported by wheelchair back to this entrance to meet your driver.
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