

Having Surgery during a Pandemic Infection Prevention Guide

Ensuring the safety of our patients and staff is a top priority.

We recognize the added stress of the COVID-19 Pandemic may have you feeling more anxious about your upcoming surgery or procedure.

Please be assured that our routine diligent infection prevention measures are still in place as well as additional pandemic measures in accordance with recommendations to hospitals by the Ontario Ministry of Health

<https://www.mhalliance.on.ca/>



Middlesex Hospital Alliance

Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital site
Four Counties Health Services site

Screening

You will be asked about symptoms or risk factors for the COVID-19 virus at several check points before your surgery. Because symptoms or exposure risk may change over time, it's important that we ask the screening questions more than once and as close as possible to the time of your procedure. Thank you for your patience with us.

Assessment

There may be times when additional assessment of your health may be required. Be assured, this does not mean your surgery will not take place. It's recognized that patients who have infection at the time of their surgery are at greater risk of developing complications during their health care journey. **Your safety is very important to us. Please provide us with thorough and accurate information.**

Vaccination

Covid vaccine reduces the risk of Covid-19 infection. We encourage all patients and visitors to get vaccinated against Covid -19. If you have had your second dose of Covid vaccine more than 14 days before your surgery you will be considered fully vaccinated.

Help Prepare yourself for your surgical procedure

Expectation 1. Physical Distancing

- Practice physical distancing before and after your procedure. This means maintaining a distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet) between yourself and others.
- If you anticipate being in situations where distancing may not be possible, perform hand hygiene and wear a mask.
- **Please ensure you comply with physical distancing.**
Refer to Public Health Ontario Fact Sheet.

[Physical Distancing \(Public Health Ontario\)](#)

Here's
what
you can
expect



Bring your mask!
Bring your proof of
vaccine!

Expectation 2. Self-Isolation

- All patients must limit social activities for 10 days prior to surgery. Patients should only go out for essential reasons 10 days prior to their elective surgery
- If you are fully vaccinated please be prepared to show proof of vaccination. Fully vaccinated means you have received your second dose (or booster dose if required) more than 14 days before your surgery.
- Please ensure you develop a self-isolation plan & comply with instructions around self-isolation
[Self-Isolation \(Public Health Ontario\)](#)
- You may be required to obtain a COVID-19 test prior to your surgical procedure. If the Surgeon's office or Pre-Admit nurse advises that this is a requirement, **the test must be booked 2-3 days prior to your scheduled procedure**. Strict isolation must occur following this test.
- If you have previously tested positive for COVID -19 within 90 days (3 months) of your surgical date, a Rapid Antigen test will be performed the day of your procedure.
If your Rapid Antigen test is positive, your surgery will be rescheduled.



Stay at home



Avoid contact with others



Keep your distance



Clean your hands

Support Persons/Visitors

During this time we are required to limit the number of people coming to the hospital. If you need assistance or support the day of your procedure, your visitor will be required to pass hospital screening. Please refer to the hospital internet for visitor guidelines

<https://www.mhalliance.on.ca/>

At the Hospital

- Everyone entering the hospital must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and exposure risk
- Be prepared to show proof of Vaccination against Covid -19
- You will be asked to perform hand hygiene
- Everyone entering the hospital must wear a mask. The mask must remain on at all times unless you are directed by a healthcare worker to remove or replace it.
 - Perform hand hygiene before putting on your mask
 - Make sure the mask covers your mouth and nose
 - Do not touch the front of the mask. If you do, perform hand hygiene.
 - Remove the mask by handling the ties or ear loops only. Disposable masks should be discarded. Reusable masks can be placed into a clean paper bag. Perform hand hygiene again, once you have removed your mask