

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/>



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.

Here's
what
you can
expect



Bring your mask!
Bring your proof of
vaccine!

Expectation 2. Self-Isolation

- We encourage all patients to limit social activities for 10 days prior to surgery.
- If you are fully vaccinated 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.
- The Ministry advises that patients who are not fully vaccinated should have a COVID -19 swab before surgery.
- **If you have been asked to obtain a COVID-19 swab before your surgery, you *must* adhere to strict social isolation practices from the time of your swab to your scheduled procedure. If you are not able to maintain strict social isolation practices from the time of your swab to the day of your surgery, your surgery will be rescheduled.**
- Please ensure you develop a self-isolation plan & comply with instructions around self-isolation
[Self-Isolation \(Public Health Ontario\)](#)
- **Rapid Antigen tests are not acceptable for surgical clearance.** Covid 19 Pre-op clearance is obtained by a PCR test (results from PCR testing *are not immediately available*)

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, please ensure that only one person who is fully vaccinated, free of symptoms and who has not been exposed to COVID -19 accompanies you to the hospital. Fully vaccinated means that your support person received their second dose of Covid vaccine more than 14 days before your surgery.

Our visitor policies are evolving. Please refer to our website for up to date information.

<https://www.mh Alliance.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