

Answers for Patients with an Upcoming Hospital Procedure

Will I be tested for COVID-19 before my procedure?

Yes, it's in your best interest to have a COVID-19 test prior to your procedure. COVID-19 patients may have weakened immune systems and other symptoms that could compromise healing following a procedure. Therefore, any person having a hospital-based procedure will be tested before proceeding. The test will be part of your pre-admission process and should occur two to three days prior to the date of your surgery or procedure.

What does the test involve?

As part of your pre-admission testing visit, a care team member will use a long nasal swab in both sides of your nose to collect a sample. The test is similar to other viral tests, like influenza. While it is mildly uncomfortable, the test only lasts a few seconds.

What test is being used?

Texas Health uses a rapid test completed in the hospital two to three days prior to your scheduled procedure. You may also be tested at a validated testing site that is not at our hospital, as long as the test is completed within two to three days of your procedure.

May I decline testing?

All patients will need to test negative prior to their procedure. In order to

protect patients, visitors and team members, the test is required prior to having any hospital-based procedure.

How much does a test cost?

Insurance coverage varies by plan, so please check with your insurance provider as to what is covered. For more information on hospital related costs, [click here](#).

If my test is positive, will my procedure be cancelled?

If you test positive for COVID-19, your immune system is likely compromised. We will work with you and your physician to reschedule your procedure for a time when it is safer for you to proceed.

Do I have to wear a mask?

Yes. Part of limiting exposure to the virus includes masks for all patients, visitors and care team members while in common or public areas of the hospital. You will also be asked to wear a mask when a care team member enters your room.

Will a mask be provided to me and my visitor?

Yes, you and your visitor will each receive a mask when you arrive at the hospital. Masks are available at screening centers near hospital entrances.



Your patients may have many questions about their upcoming surgery or procedure. Texas Health is privileged to serve them. We are committed to supporting them and their family during their hospital visit. We have developed a list of the questions that you may be asked, and answers you can provide them as they prepare for their procedure.

I've heard hospitals are not allowing visitors. Does that mean my family cannot be with me for my procedure?

You may have a loved one or visitor with you the day of your procedure. Your visitor will be screened and provided a mask to wear while at the hospital. If you are admitted to the hospital after your procedure, your loved one will be asked to leave when it is time to get settled in your room. We understand that support and encouragement from loved ones is part of the healing process. You are encouraged to stay in contact with your family and friends using your phone, tablet or laptop. Unless needed for mobility or impairment support, visitors are not allowed during your procedure pre-admission visit.

What steps are you taking to mitigate risk of exposure to COVID-19?

Rest assured that it is safe to have your procedure at a Texas Health hospital. Hospitals have limited entry points to allow screening of all patients and visitors upon arrival to the hospital. All patients, visitors and care team members are asked to wear masks to limit potential exposure. All patients being treated for COVID-19 or exhibiting symptoms consistent with the virus are cared for in designated areas of the hospital designed specifically for that purpose.

Will my loved one be tested for COVID-19?

Your loved one or visitor will not be tested for COVID-19, but they will be screened each time they enter the hospital and will be asked to wear a mask.

Can my visitor leave the hospital and come back?

Yes. Be aware that each time your visitor enters the hospital, they will be screened. While away from the hospital, we do encourage the support person to practice social distancing and good hand hygiene.

How often are care team members being tested?

Care team members are self-monitoring for symptoms, including checking their temperature twice a day while at work and at home. Tests are currently reserved for those with the highest need, including patients who are having a hospital-based procedure and care team members who have COVID-19 symptoms. These guidelines are in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Are there options to help me financially?

Yes, we recognize many in our community have been impacted financially by COVID-19. Texas Health has several financial options for patients. A financial concierge can help you navigate new payment options. To improve patients' financial experience, Texas Health is launching a single point of contact to guide patients who can connect with you during the pre-admission process.

For more information about important changes we are making for your safety, please visit [Texas Health Coronavirus Response](#).