



COVID-19 Surgical and Procedure Guide for Patients

Thank you for your patience we are pleased to care for you at the Boulder Surgery Center. We have taken precautions during the COVID-19 crisis and have complied with the Governor's order to postpone elective procedures and surgeries to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure to our patients, families, staff, and healthcare providers.

Effective April 27, 2020 the Governor's Public Health Order allowed for elective surgeries to start being performed again and patient safety is our priority. Therefore, as we all get back to normal operations, we want to share important updates and changes as it relates to your upcoming procedure to keep everyone safe.

Steps to Ensure the Safety of our Patients and their Families

- Screening (will include testing for COVID-19) of our surgical patients
- Screening our staff, medical staff, and vendors daily per the CDC guidelines
- Requiring masks to be worn in the surgery center by all staff, patients, and their one responsible adult if permissible
- Proper cleaning and disinfecting will occur in all areas of the surgery center following guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control
- Encouraging social distancing by limiting visitors, number of patients, and vendors
- Practicing universal masking and use of proper PPE to reduce the spread of COVID-19

Screening expectations

To take the precautions necessary to protect every patient, we will be adding questions related to possible COVID-19 symptoms to your pre-screening surgical questionnaire. Please answer them honestly. We will ask you the same screening questions upon arrival at the surgery center and take your temperature.

Should you have any positive symptoms related to COVID-19, we will take you to a private area, notify your surgeon immediately, cancel or reschedule your procedure, and ask you contact your primary care provider for additional testing and care.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is everyone wearing masks?

Safety is our top priority. Boulder Surgery Center follows guidelines on masks from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and local health agencies. The CDC has suggested the use of masks to help limit the spread of COVID-19.



2. Will I need to wear a mask?

The CDC recommends masks in any public setting where social distancing is hard to maintain. Patients and ,if permissible, the adult accompanying them for their procedure, are required to wear a mask and will be given a mask if they do not have one. The mask is to be worn while in our facility for your safety.

3. Can my family members come with me?

For the safety of our patients and staff, we are limiting visitors that can enter our facility. However, any patient having a surgical procedure will need one responsible adult to drive them to and from the facility, to help care for them and/or assist with forms. We will ask your responsible adult to only drop you off and pick you up to reduce unnecessary contact with others.

4. Why are you screening and/or testing me for COVID-19 even if I don't have symptoms?

It is possible that an individual can have COVID-19 even if they do not have any symptoms. Testing and/or screening before procedures to rule out COVID-19 allows us to be sure we are not exposing our staff, patients, or their families to the virus or creating greater risk to the patient during a surgical procedure.

Screening

- Patients will complete their normal pre-surgical screening prior to their procedure date. Additionally, the screening will include questions related to symptoms of COVID-19. A staff member may call you for additional screening. During the screening, patients will be asked about any symptoms (including fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, diarrhea, and loss of smell or taste), personal history of COVID-19, and possible recent exposure to COVID-19.
- Patients will also be screened for COVID-19 symptoms (including fever, cough, shortness of breath, and loss of smell or taste) when they arrive for their procedure.

Testing

- Boulder Surgery Center has decided to start preop testing for COVID for every surgical patient having anesthesia.
- Testing will be combined with the current Screening process. This will help to reduce the chances that a patient with asymptomatic COVID is admitted for surgery.
- The only acceptable Tests are PCR tests (nasal or oral swabs) which check for actual presence of the virus. Antibody tests are not acceptable. The Test must have been collected within 72 hours of scheduled surgery time.



- The patient can either arrange to get tested on their own (no more than 72 hours before the scheduled surgery time) and provide us with Negative results before arriving to the facility or can go to BCH (main) Foothills or BCH Erie facility for testing. To get results in a timely manner and avoid delay of surgery, the test must be obtained no later than two days before surgery (for example: for Monday surgery the test would be collected on Friday or early Saturday, for Tuesday surgery the test would be collected on Saturday or early Sunday, for Wednesday surgery the test would be collected on Sunday or early Monday, etc). Timing is very important!

5. What are you doing to clean rooms and equipment?

Our staff uses cleaning procedures for rooms and equipment that follow directions from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control, and others. These guidelines help us choose the right cleaning supplies to use, the right cleaning processes to follow, and the timeframes to circulate air in our rooms.

Other questions or concerns?

Please contact your physician's office or the Boulder Surgery Center to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Boulder Surgery Center Phone Number: (303) 938-5470

Boulder Centre for Orthopedics: (303) 449-2730