

Your upcoming surgery or procedure

PATIENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Is it safe for me to have this surgery/procedure? What safety measures are in place to protect me?

Your health and well-being and the health of our team members caring for you are our top priorities and we are taking many precautionary measures to protect you from COVID-19.

- We are verbally screening all patients for COVID-19 during pretesting for surgery.
- We are testing all surgical patients for the virus 48-hours before their scheduled procedure.
- All patients, visitors and caregivers will wear masks while in our facilities to minimize the risk of spreading the virus
- We have designated areas of our facility to treat COVID-19 positive patients; thereby reserving the rest of our facility for non-COVID care. These care areas are separate from other hospitalized patients and have the highest level of precautions in place to ensure your safety.
- Before entering the facility, all patients and visitors are being masked, verbally screened for COVID-19 symptoms and visitors are having their temperature taken. Any visitor with a temperature of 99.6F or higher, will not be permitted into the facility.
- All physicians and team members caring for patients are diligent about self-monitoring for any symptoms and have access to a team of employee health care givers that monitor all potential exposures.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

People infected with COVID-19 may have one or more of these symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Weakness
- Muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Loss of taste or smell

What kind of preassessment testing will I need before my surgery?

Your preassessment testing will vary depending on the type of surgery you will be having. However, in an abundance of caution, we are now requiring that all surgical patients be tested for COVID-19 48-hours before their scheduled surgery. If you are not able to attend your scheduled COVID-19 screening, please be sure to call **817-922-7640** however, delayed testing may result in a delayed or cancelled surgery.

Where do I need to go for my test?

- In order to provide a safe and convenient option for our patients, our goal is to do all pre-assessment testing, including the SARS CoV-2 test, within 48-hours of your scheduled surgery. However, some procedures do not allow all pre-assessment tests to be performed within the 48-hour window.
- If we are unable to schedule all of your pre-assessment testing within 48-hours, you will be asked to come in for a convenient, curb-side swabbing appointment for SARS CoV-2.
- Curb-side swabbing will take place at the Discharge Hospitality Suite located on campus at Baylor Scott & White – Fort Worth, located at Mistletoe Blvd and 9th Avenue. Please refer to the map for further directions.
- When you arrive at the Discharge Hospitality Suite, please stay in your car.

- Once you arrive, **call the phone number 817-922-7640** and let our team member know your parking space number.
- A member of our team will be out shortly to swab you.

Can I bring a loved one with me during my preassessment testing or during my surgery? Are there any special precautions for him/her?

- In order to limit exposure in the hospital, we are limiting the number of visitors permitted. Only one visitor is permitted in the facility per patient per day.
- Visitors will need to wear a mask (brought from home or provided by our facility) upon entering and they will undergo a screening and temperature check. Visitors with a temperature at or over 99.6°F will not be permitted to visit.
- Currently, no visitors 16-years-old or younger are permitted inside the facility at this time.

What should I expect for the test?

Your care team members will be dressed with the proper protective equipment in order to ensure everyone's safety. This will include a mask, a face shield, gloves, and a gown. It will involve a long, Q-Tip type swab that we will be used to take a sample through your nose. This involves swabbing the inside of the person's nose with a skinny swab that is long enough to reach the nasopharynx, the upper part of the throat, behind the nose. The mildly uncomfortable process is the same technique used to test for other viruses, including influenza, and takes just a few seconds.

What do I need to bring for my test?

In an abundance of caution, we are asking that all patients and any visitor wear a mask upon entry to our facility. If you do not have one from home, we are happy to provide one for you.

What should I do between the time I leave from testing and when I come back to the facility for my procedure.

Please be sure to socially isolate from the time you leave the facility for your testing until you arrive for your scheduled surgery to ensure that you do not have an unexpected exposure to COVID-19.

What happens if I develop symptoms?

Call your physician's office immediately to determine next steps.

What happens if I can't come in for preassessment testing?

Please make every effort to attend your scheduled preassessment test. Missing your scheduled testing could result in a delayed or cancelled surgery.

Will I be billed for this test?

No, currently patients are not being billed for the SARS CoV-2 test.

How will I know my COVID-19 test results?

If you do not receive a phone call, assume your test is negative. **Only those patients who have a positive COVID-19 test result will be notified by a healthcare professional.** Together, your physician and healthcare team will determine next steps. We are also required to

notify your local health department of a positive COVID-19 test. Your doctor will look at your personal health needs to decide if your surgery or procedure should be done as scheduled or delayed until after you get well.

Keep track of your test results and other clinical testing by downloading the free MyBSWHealth app on your Smartphone. Access the app in one of three ways:

- App Store: MyBSWHealth
- Text: Better to 88408
- Visit: BSWHealth.com/MyBSWHealth

What can I do to protect myself from COVID-19 before my surgery or procedure?

In the days before your surgery or procedure is scheduled:

- Stay home as much as possible
- If you must go out, stay at least 6 feet away from other people
- Wear a cloth face covering if you go out
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, counters, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks

What if I have other questions about COVID-19?

- Go to <https://www.bswhealth.com/Pages/coronavirus-information.aspx>
- Contact your primary care doctor or provider
- Go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

By moving forward with “Pre-Surgery COVID-19 Testing,” I agree and understand that, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, I have been asked to comply with social distancing and other recommendations for my safety and safety of the doctor and staff involved in my care.

