

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Scheduling My Procedure During Coronavirus

Q: Can I get my COVID-19 test anywhere? Can I order a home kit?

A: Blanchard Valley Health System (BVHS) requires that the tests are administered through the BVHS outpatient testing process. This ensures that the results are available in a timely manner and are delivered directly to your patient chart.

Q: Why do I have to have my COVID-19 test 96 hours prior to surgery?

A: The COVID-19 testing must be completed 96 hours prior to your procedure. We need the full 96 hours in order to process your test in time for your procedure. If you do not complete this step within the required time frame, your procedure cannot proceed.

Q: How long will my surgery be deferred if I test positive for COVID-19?

A: The procedure would be deferred for a minimum of two weeks unless symptoms progress. The care team will check in with you near the two-week mark to see how you are doing.

If your symptoms progress, you can check in with your primary care provider, or if symptoms rapidly progress, seek medical attention by calling 911 or going to your local emergency department. You will also be receiving a few phone calls from a BVHS representative, as well as a representative from the public health department who will provide you with additional instructions for self-monitoring and self-quarantine.

Once your symptoms have subsided, you may be required to be retested prior to proceeding with your surgery.

Q: Will my insurance cover the cost of COVID-19 testing?

A: The cost of testing will likely be covered. We recommend you contact your insurance plan or your HR department for exact coverage details.

Q: Why do I need the COVID-19 testing performed?

A: Testing ensures safety for you and your care team. Testing will provide you the best outcome for your procedure. There is evidence emerging that using anesthesia in COVID-19 positive patients is not recommended.

Q: What is it like to get a nasal swab?

A: The health care worker will gently insert what looks like a long Q-tip as far as it will go into your nose, twirl the swab in order to get a good sample. The process takes about 15 seconds and is moderately uncomfortable but the discomfort you feel typically goes away quickly.



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(Continued)

Q: When I self-quarantine after my COVID-19 swab, does that mean I can't go to work?

A: After your swab you need to self-quarantine until the day of your surgery, and follow these guidelines:

- Remain in your home from testing until the day of your procedure.
- Close contacts within your household must also follow the same self-quarantine guidelines.
- Limit your contact with other members of your household during this quarantine time.
- Monitor your temperature two (2) times per day and monitor for any symptoms. If you have a temperature of 100.4 or greater or have any of the below symptoms, call your surgeon's office right away.

- **Chills**
- **Sudden feeling of cold or shivers**
- **Muscle pain/aches**
- **Headache**
- **Sore throat**
- **Smell or taste disorder**
- **Cough**
- **Shortness of breath**
- **Difficulty breathing**

If the self-quarantine guidelines are not followed your surgery may be cancelled.

Q: After my procedure do I still need to self-quarantine?

A: No, once the procedure is completed you will no longer be required to self-quarantine.

Q: Can I bring someone with me on the day of my surgery?

A: You can bring one person with you on the day of surgery. This person will be screened upon entering the facility and their temperature along with yours will be taken. We require you and your support person to bring your own mask.

Your support person will accompany you to the preparation area where your surgeon will go over your procedure and discharge orders. Once you go to surgery we encourage your support person to leave the building and keep their cell phone on so we can update them regarding the findings of the surgery and then call when you are ready to be discharged.

If they do stay in the waiting room, they must wear a mask at all times over their nose and mouth, maintain a distance of six (6) feet from other people. We encourage your support person to not leave the waiting area for the cafeteria, lobby coffee shop or gift shop during their stay.

If you have questions regarding your procedure please contact your provider.

If you have questions regarding the Coronavirus, please call the CDC hotline at 1.800.232.4636 or Ohio Department of Health at 1.833.427.5364.

