



Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health



COVID-19 and Adult Surgeries: How We Are Keeping You Safe

What to expect before, during and after your procedure



10 Days Before Surgery: Self-Monitor for COVID-19 Symptoms

- Limit your COVID-19 risk by following public health guidelines and [orders of the Provincial Health Officer](#).
- Monitor yourself, members of your household and anyone you are in close contact with for [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- Notify your surgeon immediately if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive.

Arriving for Surgery: Screening, Testing and Hospital Precautions

- Upon arrival, you will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Based on your symptoms, your surgical team may require you to take a COVID-19 test.
- You may be screened a second time when you enter the pre-surgical unit. Based on your screening or test results, you may need to be in an isolation room before your procedure.
- For your safety, there will be enhanced cleaning and disinfection measures, physical distancing markers and hand hygiene stations.
- Staff will be wearing personal protective equipment such as surgical masks or N95 respirators, gloves, eye protection and gowns.



During Surgery: Enhanced Precautions and Cleaning

- Surgery is always done under safe and clean conditions. Depending on your screening or test results, there may be other enhanced precautions in place to ensure your and hospital staff's safety.

After Surgery: Recovery with Hospital Precautions

- You will be in a recovery room, which is regularly cleaned and disinfected with enhanced COVID-19 safety measures between each patient.
- Depending on your screening or test results, you may need to stay longer for monitoring during your recovery, and you may need to be placed in an isolation room.

COVID-19 Testing and Surgery

- Your health authority may decide to test all surgical patients when there are high case rates of COVID-19 in the region. In this case, you will get a COVID-19 test even without symptoms.
- Your COVID-19 vaccination status does not change the COVID-19 testing requirements.

Postponing your Surgery

- Your health and safety is our priority. Evidence suggests that having surgery while you have COVID-19 may increase the likelihood of complications. If you have a positive COVID-19 test result before an elective surgery, your surgical team may decide to postpone your surgery.
- There are many other respiratory viruses as well that can increase your risk of complications. It is very important that you monitor your health and only proceed with surgery if you are feeling well. If the surgery is urgent, then the surgery may continue using extra precautions.

Visitors During your Surgery and Recovery

- All visitors will be expected to follow safety guidelines and staff instructions during their visit. Hospital visits may be impacted by public health guidance, outbreak management, clinical settings and physical space. Please visit your local health authority's website for the most current protocols.

If you have questions about your surgery and COVID-19 preventative measures safety, please contact your surgeon.

