



Beaufort Memorial

Frequently Asked Questions: COVID-19 and Your Upcoming Surgery

Q. Why do I have to be tested for COVID-19 before my surgery?

A. Those positive for COVID-19 could have increased risk of complications, infection and transmission even if they have no symptoms. Confirmation of whether or not you have COVID-19 is important to know before your surgery. Those testing positive for COVID-19 will have their surgery cancelled or rescheduled.

Q. How will I be tested for COVID-19?

A. A nasal swab specimen is collected to test for COVID-19. You will be notified of your testing time and location for specimen collection a few days prior to your surgery. It is crucial that you keep your scheduled testing appointment. Failure to do so will result in cancellation and rescheduling of your surgery. After your specimen collection, you will receive instructions about self-quarantining before your surgery.

Q. How will I get my test results?

A. You will be notified of your test results as soon as they are available. Please make sure that your cell phone number is included so that these results can be texted to you.

Q. Why should I self-isolate before my surgery during this COVID-19 pandemic?

A. COVID-19 transmits easily from person to person. Self-isolation before your surgery will reduce your risk of exposure to the illness and prevent possible infection. We recommend that you self-isolate as best as you can after being tested for Covid-19 and 72 hours before your scheduled surgery. This means you should not travel outside of short trips to and from work, or unless absolutely necessary; maintain social distance; wear a mask at all times, especially when you cannot socially distance; and, practice proper hand hygiene. Prior to testing, we also recommend that same guidance to reduce your risk for exposure.

Q. What precautions do I need to take at home before my surgery?

A. Wash your hands, disinfect high-touch surfaces and limit interactions with others to reduce your risk of COVID-19 exposure before your surgery. You will be asked to refrain from travel, avoid crowds, mask at all times and practice social distancing.

Q. What do I do if I begin to have symptoms before my surgery?

A. Immediately report to your doctor any symptoms such as cough, fever (greater than 99.5) diarrhea or new pain. You should also call the Beaufort Memorial Express Care clinic in Beaufort (843-524-3344), Bluffton (843-706-2185) or Okatie (843-706-8840) for a screening appointment. Please be sure to mention that you are scheduled for a surgical procedure. If you experience a life-threatening emergency, go to the nearest ER or call 911.

Q. How does Beaufort Memorial keep patients safe from COVID-19 exposure?

A. We follow rigorous protocols to keep our patients and employees safe from exposure to COVID-19. On the day of your surgery, you will be screened for COVID-19 risk factors, asked to wear a mask and instructed to practice good hand hygiene. Our employees will wear masks, goggles, and gloves. We also will do our best to ensure all patients remain socially distanced.

Q. Can I have someone with me at the hospital or surgery center when I have my surgery?

A. Visitors are not allowed in the recovery areas of the ORs. Visitors will be allowed to wait in designated waiting areas and must be masked at all times.

If you have any additional questions, please contact your surgeon's office.