

# Pre-Surgery COVID-19 Testing

At Baylor Scott & White Health, our priority is the safety of our patients, healthcare team members and the communities we serve. For everyone's safety, patients will be tested for COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) 48 hours (2 days) before scheduled surgeries and procedures.

- **What are the symptoms of COVID-19?**

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

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

- **I don't feel sick. Why do I need a COVID-19 test?**

Many people infected with COVID-19 do not have any symptoms. These people can spread COVID-19 to others without knowing it.

- **Where and when should I go to get tested for COVID-19?**

A healthcare team member will tell you where and when to go for testing.

- **How will I be tested for COVID-19?**

A healthcare team member will put a long swab into one of your nostrils until it touches the back of your nasal cavity, gently turning and moving the swab to get a sample of fluid for the test. The swab will be removed after a few seconds. This test, called a nasopharyngeal swab, is an approved test for COVID-19.

- **What if the test shows I have COVID-19?**

A positive test means you have an active COVID-19 infection. A healthcare team member will call you if your test is positive and tell you how to care for yourself and protect others. 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.

- **What if the test shows I do not have COVID-19?**

A negative test means you *probably* do not have a COVID-19 infection.

You WILL NOT get a call if your test is negative; you should come for your surgery or procedure as scheduled. Please note, some people have a negative test when the test is done in the first 1 or 2 days after becoming infected.

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- **What if I start having symptoms of COVID-19 after I am tested?**

Please call your doctor's office or clinic. Tell them when your surgery or procedure is scheduled and ask them to tell your doctor that you have symptoms of COVID-19. Stay home and do not come for your surgery or procedure unless told to by your doctor.

- **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

- **Besides testing, what safety steps are in place to protect me?**

- We ask all patients COVID-19 screening questions
- We are limiting visitors and all allowed visitors are screened for COVID-19
- All patients, visitors and healthcare team members wear masks while in our facilities
- Patients who do not have COVID-19 are cared for in separate areas than patients with known COVID-19 infections

- **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.**

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