



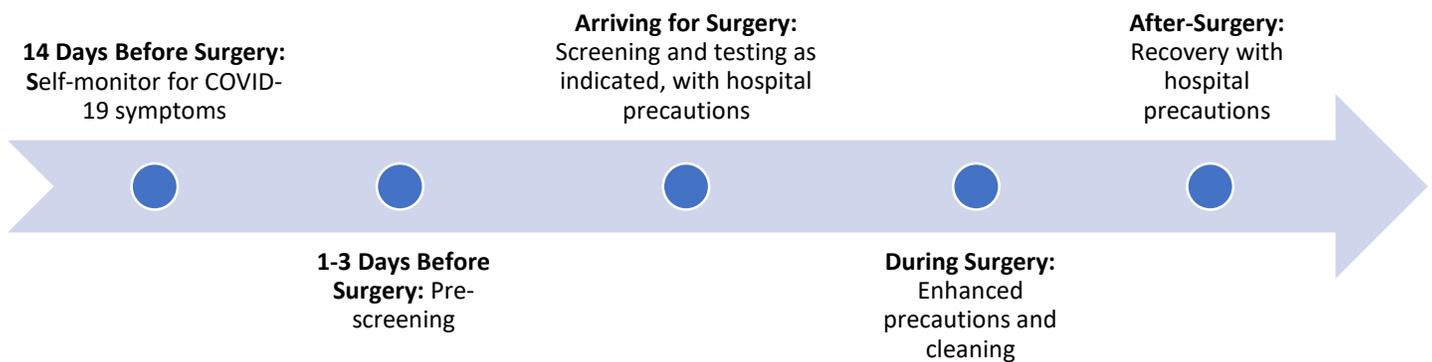
# Coronavirus COVID-19

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



### 14 Days Before Surgery: Self-Monitor for COVID-19 Symptoms

- Follow public health guidelines and [orders of the Provincial Health Officer](#) to limit your COVID-19 risk.
- Monitor yourself, members of your household and anyone you are in close contact with for any [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- Notify your surgeon immediately if you have:
  - symptoms of COVID-19 or tested positive for COVID-19
  - been identified by public health as a COVID-19 close contact
  - been in, or are in a COVID-19 outbreak setting, such as your workplace
  - travelled outside the country in the last 14 days

### One to Three Days Before Surgery: Pre-Screening

- Your surgical team will contact you to screen for COVID-19 symptoms and exposures.
- You may be directed to get a COVID-19 test prior to your surgery.



## **Arriving for Surgery: Screening and Testing as Indicated, with Hospital Precautions**

- You will be screened upon arrival for COVID-19 symptoms and exposures.
- 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 enhanced precautions 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 stay longer for monitoring during your recovery, and possibly placed in an isolation room.

## **COVID-19 Testing and Surgery**

Based on your possible exposures or symptoms, your surgical team may require you to take a COVID-19 test leading up to your surgery and/or when you arrive for your 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 or exposures.

At this time, COVID-19 vaccination status will not change COVID-19 testing requirements.

## **Postponing your Surgery**

Your health and safety is our priority. Evidence suggests that having surgery while the patient has COVID-19 increases 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. If the surgery is urgent, then the surgery may continue under extra precautions.

### **Visitors for 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 safety, please contact your surgeon.**

