



## COVID-19: Updated pre-operative testing for COVID for surgical patients

For all patients and their caregivers: Safety for **ALL** is our top priority at Bonner General Health.

To address this priority, we have put new and robust health screening processes in place. All surgical patients will be tested for the presence of COVID-19 before surgery, and all our staff and patients are being screened daily to ensure that they are free of symptoms.

Bonner General is also following the public health order to limit the number of visitors who can accompany our patients to maintain safe distances within and around our hospital. These measures are taking place to limit the risk of potential exposure to COVID-19. We look forward to the time when this will not be necessary!

At this time, visitors may be allowed to accompany surgical patients into the hospital. We ask that your support person and be available at the time of discharge for instructions. Please provide a correct contact number for your support person to staff on the day of your procedure. If the patient is a minor or has a legal guardian, the parent or guardian should accompany the patient.

**Preparing for your surgery: Please answer your phone. Please clear your voicemail so you can receive messages.**

To help minimize the risk of asymptomatic spread of coronavirus, we ask that you follow social distancing guidelines: Social distancing is required from the time your surgery is scheduled until you begin quarantine.

### **What is social distancing?**

- Maintain 6 feet of distance from others.
- Wear a cloth face covering when in public (work, grocery store, etc.)
- Frequent hand washing or hand sanitizer use.

**Pre-surgery COVID -19 testing:** We want to perform your surgery or procedure in the safest possible circumstances to give you the best chance of a smooth recovery. One of our nurses will call you before your surgery/procedure to complete your necessary nurse assessment, ask you about symptoms, quarantine, and schedule you for needed tests, including a coronavirus test, even if you do not show symptoms consistent with the virus. We are doing this so that we have all of the information we need to provide you with safe care.

**Please ensure that you are available to receive this call from the nursing staff. This call must be completed before lab tests to ensure all needed tests are ordered.**

**Quarantine:** Prepare for up to four days of quarantine (food, medicine, and supplies needed.) Ensure you can check your temperature at home. You will need to quarantine from the time of your COVID-19 lab testing until you arrive for your procedure, up to 4 days.

### What is quarantine?

- Isolate at home. Please do not leave your home or have visitors. Please limit movement outside.

### The reasons below may cause cancelation of your elective surgery or procedure:

- Failure to quarantine.
- Labs not complete by the day/time specified by the assessment nurse.
- Having symptoms of coronavirus can include: fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell.
- Having been exposed to the coronavirus in the last 14 days.
- A positive coronavirus test.

## Understand what to expect on the day of surgery

Under the Centers for Disease Control and Panhandle Health District's direction, we have some strict guidelines in place that you will see immediately upon arriving at our facility.

- Please be sure to have the contact information of your support person on hand.
- Upon entering our facility, you will be health screened by one of our kind employees in patient registration.
- As an extra layer of protection, you will notice our entire staff will be wearing masks. You will be required to wear a mask for your safety.
- You will then be escorted to the designated surgical registration area to be checked in and sign the appropriate paperwork.
- You will then proceed to the Surgical Waiting Area on the second floor. Assistance to this area is available if needed. Once there, please ring the bell on the wall to notify the surgical staff of your arrival.
- Our surgical team will keep your support person informed of your progress via telephone. If your support person wishes to call to inquire about your progress, they may dial 208-265-1173.
- As soon as you are ready to go home, we will coordinate teaching instructions and pick-up with your designated support person.
- **Your surgery is currently scheduled to proceed with the planned date and time. Still, we also have to be flexible to deal with any potential changes regarding our hospital and providers' capacity. We appreciate your understanding if things change, and in return, we promise to keep you informed with up-to-date information on what is happening here at BGH, as well as keeping your best interests at the forefront.**

Please know we genuinely care about you and will do everything we can to provide you with the safest and best possible care experience. If you have any questions or concerns before that day, please don't hesitate to contact us. You may leave a message at **208-255-3672**, and a staff member will return your call as soon as possible. You may also call your Physician's Office.

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