

## **COLONOSCOPY AND EGD COVID-19 AND INFECTION SAFETY INFORMATION**

**Welcome to the North Memorial Ambulatory Surgery Center. We appreciate the opportunity to take care of you and/or your family member during this stressful time period. Thank you for the vote of confidence in our facility and in our doctors. We assure you that we are taking every action possible to insure your safety during the Coronavirus Pandemic.**

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The disease causes respiratory illness (like the flu) with symptoms such as a cough, fever, and in more severe cases, difficulty breathing. COVID-19 is spread through close personal contact or airborne droplets – coughing or sneezing. People may also contact the illness if they touch a surface infected with COVID-19 and then touch their mouths, noses or eyes. There's currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19.

I understand that my physician has determined that my planned elective procedure/surgery is medically necessary and permissible under Governor Walz in the State of Minnesota as well as the federal government and return to elective surgeries. Please know that the decision whether to proceed with the procedure/surgery now or to wait until after the COVID-19 is less prevalent is up to each patient and their family and given situation. During this time – your care giver or person accompanying you to the center will be limited in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 infection. In the event that you would develop any surgical complications or post-surgical complications, we may have to transfer you to a hospital for care. If that would occur, you could potentially be exposed to patients with COVID-19.

We would ask that you would contact your Doctor if you have further questions related to having a procedure during this pandemic. With all the precautions, please know that there is always a risk when leaving your home regardless of the location.

**The North Memorial Ambulatory Surgery Center has implemented several new actions, along with our existing infection control processes in response to the COVID-19.**

**COVID-19 PCR Testing** – All patients receiving anesthesia must be tested for coronavirus prior to your procedure. If you are scheduled for a local procedure or you do not need a COVID-19 PCR test unless your surgeon requires one. Patients receiving procedural sedation do not need a COVID-19 PCR test. You must self-quarantine between the time of testing and time of your procedure. If you test positive for coronavirus, your procedure will be cancelled. Additional information on the process for receiving the coronavirus test prior to your procedure is included on the attached checklist.

**Limiting Visitors** – Due to the dramatic increase in COVID cases in our state, will are allowing no visitors at this time. Minors (under the age of 18) and adults requiring a caretaker can have one person in attendance while at the facility. No other exceptions are allowed. We ask that all other caregivers drop off patient at the front door.

Patients will be asked for a phone number to contact your caregiver. We will utilize this phone number to contact your caregiver after your procedure and review discharge instructions. The physician may also contact your caregiver after the procedure.

### **When You Arrive**

- All surfaces are decontaminated at the conclusion of each day's cases per national standards, as well as between each patient encounter. This includes pens and electronic keyboards/etc.
- Hand sanitizer is provided upon entering the building.
- If you do not wear a mask to our facility, you will be provided one at registration. You must always wear this mask while at our surgery center.
- After your registration, you may have a short wait in our waiting room. We highly recommend the six feet social distancing. You will notice some chairs are marked "Reserved" to allow for distancing. We have also removed magazines and extra items (i.e. items that would be high-touch and/or require additional cleaning).
- An RN will then escort you to a room where she or he will take your temperature and ask additional screening questions. **If your temperature is 100.4 or greater or you are showing symptoms of coronavirus, your procedure will be rescheduled to a later date.** After this has been completed, you will be taken to the pre-operative area to prepare for your procedure.

**Protective Mask Guidance** – You are required to wear a mask while at our facility. Please bring one from home, if you have one. If you do not have one, we will provide one for you upon arrival to our facility. For your safety, ***avoid touching the outside of the mask.*** When removing, only touch the strings and dispose in a nearby trash can. Wash or sanitize hands immediately after removal and any time you have touched your mask.

**Healthcare Provider Masking Protocol** - All surgery center staff will be wearing masks and potentially face shields when providing care for you.

**Your Procedure** – We follow all nationally recognized standards and practices related to anesthesia protocols, airway needs, air exchanges and cleaning our rooms. Safety has and always will remain our number one priority.

**Your Recovery** - Discharge instructions will be provided to you during your preoperative phase and again with your family member or caregiver after your procedure. Written information will be sent home with you for reference by you and your caregiver. Your surgeon will speak with your family member or caregiver after your procedure on the phone. Please be sure to provide a phone number for this person at the time of check in.

**Safety Precautions At Home** - Wash your hands or hand sanitize often and prior to touching your dressings and after eating, using the restroom, coughing, sneezing or touching high use items (door knobs, cell phones, TV remotes, computer mouse, sink bathroom knobs, etc.).

### **Post-Procedure Phone Call from North Memorial Ambulatory Surgery Center**

- You will receive a call within 1- 2 days after your procedure.
- Within 14 days after your procedure please call us if you have experienced any signs or symptoms of the COVID-19 virus or if you are exposed to the COVID-19 virus within 14 days of your procedure. If

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you experience symptoms or test positive to COVID-19 prior to our 14-day call, we ask you to contact us immediately at 763-581-9000.

**Safety Precautions At Home:**

- Wear a protective cloth mask if venturing outside your home or yard. Keep mobile, but safe.
- Wash your hands or hand sanitize often.
  - Prior to touching your dressings
  - After eating, using the restroom, coughing, sneezing or touching high use items (door knobs, cell phones, TV remotes, computer mouse, sink and bathroom knobs etc.)
  - Cough or sneeze into a tissue and dispose of tissue after. OR cough into your elbow.

**We offer our best wishes on your recovery. Please tell us about your visit, by completing our electronic patient survey that is sent within a week of your surgery. Thank you!**

## **My Pre-Procedure Checklist**

- I have scheduled my COVID-19 PCR test prior to my procedure. ***It must be within seven days (168 hours) of my scheduled procedure.***
  - If my procedure is scheduled for Thursday or Friday. I can call North Memorial Health Clinic urgent care or urgency center locations (Blaine, Elk River, Maple Grove or Minnetonka) for my COVID PCR test. My provider must submit a lab order or provide me with a signed lab order to receive the test.
  - If my procedure is scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday I can also go to the North Memorial Drive-Thru testing location at 3435 West Broadway Avenue in Robbinsdale or the Walk-Up testing location at 4414 Humboldt Avenue North in Minneapolis. Drive-thru testing is open to the public Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the North Memorial Health Specialty Center – Robbinsdale. Onsite registration must be completed by 3:45 p.m. If the Drive-Thru testing is utilized you should drive in from France Avenue N and 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue N. You do NOT need a physician order at these locations. You should wear a mask; have your insurance card, a valid ID and accurate contact information readily available. When you arrive, you will be instructed to call the pre-registration line at 763-581-3190. The testing center staff will answer the phone and pre-register you. The staff will ask if you are having any symptoms OR have an upcoming procedure. Once you are pre-registered, pull up to the testing site and open your window. The site is operated by clinical staff who will swab your nose. Once the sample is collected, you can drive away

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Testing Guide by Day of Surgery/Procedure					
Day of Procedure	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
When to get COVID test	Previous Monday noon	Previous Tuesday noon	Previous Wednesday noon	Previous Thursday noon	Previous Friday noon

- Immediately after receiving my COVID PCR test, I understand I have to self-quarantine until my procedure. If I do not self-quarantine, there is a chance I could be exposed or come into contact with someone who has the virus and my procedure will be cancelled.
- I have received a phone call from the North Memorial Ambulatory Surgery Center staff to review my health history and screening questions for the coronavirus prior to my procedure.
- I have followed all NPO guidelines (if applicable) and/or any other directions from the surgery center staff prior to my procedure.
- If I develop a temperature or have any COVID-19 symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, sore throat, headache, muscle pain, or new loss of taste or smell) prior to my procedure, I will notify the surgery center immediately.
- I am prepared for my procedure and have the following items ready to take with me to the surgery center:
  - Any questions that I or my caregiver have will be noted on paper.
  - My caregiver's phone number to contact him/her while I am at the surgery center. I will give this to the surgery center staff.
  - My face mask to wear to the surgery center. If I do not have one, the surgery center staff will provide one for me upon arrival.

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