

KEEPING ENDOSCOPY PATIENTS SAFE DURING COVID-19 AND BEYOND

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Facility Protocols

To keep our patients, families, caregivers and visitors safe, we maintain a COVID-19 safe environment for everyone who enters our center. We have implemented many processes to provide a safe environment for our patients, caregivers, providers and staff. We minimize exposure from check-in to check-out.



Pre-Screening: We call patients before the day of their procedure visit to ask if they have any COVID-19 related symptoms, have been exposed to any family member or contact who has tested positive, show symptoms of COVID-19 or have traveled. If they report any symptoms, we ask them to reschedule their appointment and refer them for further evaluation.



Enhanced Symptom Screening: We screen everybody for COVID-19 before entering our center using temperature checks and assessing for signs and symptoms.



Online Check-in: To reduce patient wait time and contact with others, as much of the check-in process as possible will be handled electronically before arrival on the day of the procedure.



Mandatory Masking: We require everyone to wear masks or face coverings when in the center. If you do not have a face mask, we will provide one for you and/or your visitor.



Limitation of Visitors and Time in the Facility: To minimize contact, we limit visitors who may accompany a patient into our center. We ask patients and their escorts to stay in the car or call the center upon arrival to the building. We will provide a safe escort to those needing assistance getting inside.



Social and Physical Distancing Rules: Guidelines have been implemented to ensure responsible distancing and appropriate protection of patients and staff. This includes minimizing the number of patients and clearly marking where to stand/sit in the waiting areas and elevators.



Heightened Cleaning and Disinfecting: We follow state and federal infection control requirements. We have increased the cleaning frequency of patient rooms, public areas, rest rooms and waiting rooms. High-touch surfaces (door handles, exam tables, chairs, counters, sinks) receive extra cleaning throughout the day with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended cleaning supplies.



Hand Hygiene: We prioritize hand hygiene! Hand sanitizers are readily available throughout the center. Our doctors, nurses and medical staff sanitize or wash their hands before and after interacting with each patient.



Staff Safety: Staff are screened every day with temperature and symptom checks. They do not come to work if there is any sign or symptoms related to COVID-19. We have an adequate supply of personal protective equipment for all our staff and physicians. Staff wear personal protective equipment per CDC guidelines.



Staff Education: All employees have been educated about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, personal protective equipment, screening protocols and proper cleaning that affects each area of the center.

Endoscopy-Specific Measures - What We are Doing to be Safe

We follow CDC, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and appropriate state guidelines for performing COVID-19 safe procedures. Evidence from recent surveys suggest GI endoscopy poses a low risk of COVID-19 and appears to be relatively safe for patients and health care workers if strict infection prevention and control measures are taken.



COVID-19 Testing: We COVID-19 test our patients in advance of endoscopy. After testing, patients are instructed to self-quarantine until their procedure.



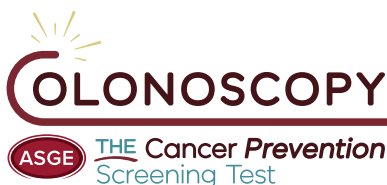
Extended Procedure Room Turnover Times: After each endoscopy, following CDC guidelines, rigorous cleaning and disinfection protocols especially of high-touch areas such as bed rails and bedside tables have been implemented.



Physical Distancing: The number of staff members in the procedure room is limited to only those essential to patient care.



Staff Safety: Staff are screened every day with temperature and symptom checks. They do not come to work if they report symptoms related to COVID-19. Staff wear PPE per CDC guidelines which include an N95 respirator, masks, eye protection/face masks, gowns and gloves. Staff performs frequent hand washing before and after procedures.



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