



Infection Prevention & Control Guidance: Ambulatory Care/Outpatient Services During COVID-19 – All Phases

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Pre-Procedure Patient Information

Patients will be advised that:

- Upon arrival at the facility, they will be required to self screen for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, a medical grade face mask will be provided to them, and this mask is required to be worn while in Horizon facilities (while the continuous masking policy is in effect).
- If they are symptomatic/COVID-19 positive, have had contact with a known case in the previous 7 days, they should call ahead so that special arrangements can be made to safely provide care. This will involve the use of additional precautions to protect patients, healthcare workers (HCWs) and physicians from the spread of COVID-19.
- DSPs (Designated Support Person) must comply with [DSP Guidelines](#).

Day of Procedure - For Patients Who Pass Screening Criteria

1. Upon entrance to the hospital the patient and DSP will screen for symptoms of COVID-19 and exposure history, provided with a face mask (when the hospital continuous masking policy is in effect), asked to clean their hands and proceed to the Ambulatory Care/Outpatient Services Registration Area.
2. Following registration, the patient will proceed directly to the procedure area. Patients who require assistance will be accompanied by their DSP.
3. Chairs in the waiting room will be spaced 1 metre apart, and face masks will be worn by the patients and DSPs. No distancing is required between the patient and their DSP.
4. The Ambulatory Care/Outpatient Services pre-procedure/recovery area will maximize the distance between each bed space (to comply with 2-meter distance requirement); occupied bed spaces are separated by a closed privacy curtain and have an accessible alcohol-based hand rinse (ABHR) dispenser. When 2-meter physical distance cannot be maintained between each bed space, ensure privacy curtains are closed.
5. Routine cleaning of the ambulatory space will be required after the procedure/outpatient visit.

Day of Procedure – For Patients Who Fail Screening Criteria:

NOTE: Patients are not refused treatment if they fail COVID-19 active screening, and the following process will be followed.

1. Upon entrance to the hospital the patient and DSP will screen for symptoms of COVID-19 and exposure history, provided with a face mask (when the hospital continuous masking policy is in effect), asked to clean their hands and proceed to the Ambulatory Care/Outpatient Services Registration Area.
2. Patient will advise registration that they have failed screening.
3. Patient will be placed in a private room or a cubicle with privacy curtains closed. If no procedure room or cubicle available patient will be placed in a separate waiting area with 2-meter distance between chairs. Patient does not go to the general waiting area.
4. Patient will be managed under Droplet/Contact Precautions.
5. Upon completion of procedure, patient will leave the facility.
6. All high touch surfaces in the ambulatory space will be cleaned and disinfected. If patient is COVID-19 positive, a terminal cleaning is required after the procedure/outpatient visit.

7. The Ambulatory Clinic Area is cleaned and disinfected as per Environmental Services protocols at the end of the day.

NOTE: Suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients who require an aerosol generating medical procedure are managed under Full Precautions.

Procedure Room Process

1. Patients will have their pre-procedure assessment and COVID-19 screening completed by the HCW in their pre-procedure bed space, this same space is used for post-procedure care. This will reduce the need for cleaning between individual patients.
2. Patients will continue to wear their face mask throughout their entire stay when a continuous masking policy is in effect. The patient's face mask may need to be removed for the provision of care. Immediately following the procedure, the patient will don a medical grade face mask for the remainder of their hospital visit.
3. The patient's discharge instruction can proceed as usual (with appropriate distancing and protective measures).

References:

American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. Guidance for resuming GI endoscopy and practice operations after the COVID-19 pandemic. 2020 April 30. https://www.asge.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/asge-guidance-for-reopening_4-28-2020.pdf