



Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health

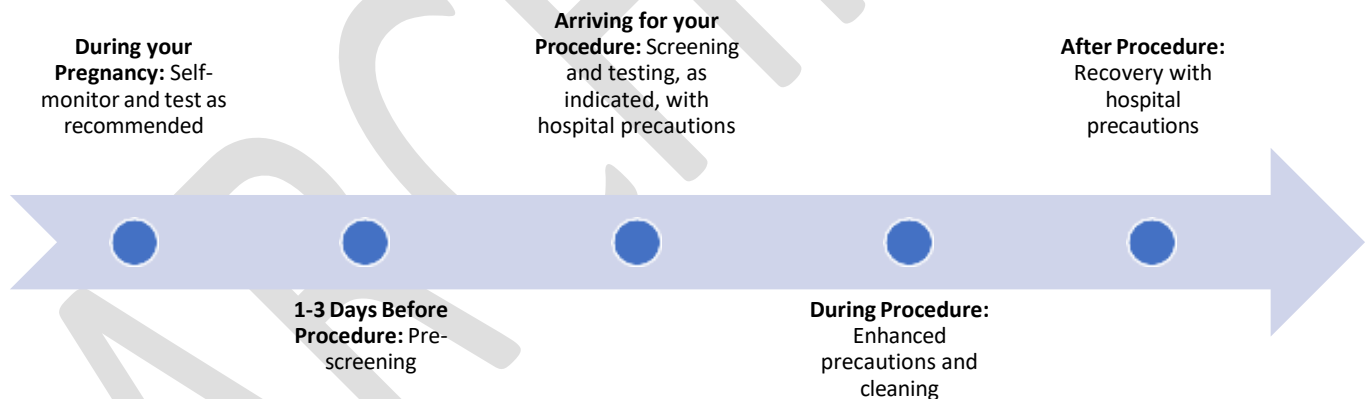


(Archived) COVID-19 and Your Pre-Planned/Scheduled Obstetric Procedure: How We Are Keeping You Safe

Archived: Nov 25, 2024

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What to expect before, during and after your procedure



An obstetric procedure is any action or approach taken to ensure the best possible outcomes for you and your unborn baby. This can include (but is not limited to) things such as:

- Caesarean section
- Cervical cerclage (stitch)

To keep you, your support person and the health-care team safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, the care you receive for your obstetric procedure may look a bit different than the way care was delivered in the past.

During your Pregnancy: Self-Monitor for COVID-19 Symptoms and Test as Recommended

If you have fever, a new cough, or are having difficulty breathing, call 8-1-1.



Ministry of Health



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- Follow public health guidelines and [orders of the Provincial Health Officer](#) to limit your COVID-19 risk.

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- Monitor yourself, your support person, members of your household and anyone you are in close contact with for symptoms of COVID-19. Tell your maternity care provider and surgeon/obstetrician if any of you have:
 - [symptoms of COVID-19](#) or test 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 Procedure: Pre-Screening

- Your surgical team will contact you to screen for COVID-19 symptoms and exposures.
- You may have to get a COVID-19 test before your procedure. This will not change the timing of your procedure, it will still go ahead regardless of the result.

Arriving for your Procedure: Screening and Testing, as Indicated, with Hospital Precautions

- You and your support person(s) will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and exposures.
- The decision to include or exclude the support person(s) who have symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 is made on a case-by-case basis.
- You and your support person(s) will receive medical-grade face masks to wear (if you can) in patient care areas of the hospital after you wash your hands.
- 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 N95 respirators or surgical masks, gloves, eye protection and gowns.

During Procedure: Enhanced Precautions and Cleaning

- Obstetric procedures are always done under safe and clean conditions. Based on your screening or test results, there may be enhanced precautions to keep you and staff safe.



After Procedure: 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.
- If you have symptoms of, or test positive for COVID-19, you may be in hospital longer for monitoring. You may be moved to an isolation room.
- Even if you do have COVID-19, you can still breastfeed and do skin-to-skin with your baby. Nurses can help you do this while keeping your baby safe.

COVID-19 Vaccination and COVID-19 Testing Before your Procedure

The Canadian Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization and public health experts in B.C. all agree that people who are pregnant and breastfeeding can get the vaccine. There is currently no known [serious risks](#) of getting a COVID-19 vaccine while pregnant or breastfeeding to either the person being vaccinated or your baby. It is considered safe even just prior to delivery and in fact you may transfer antibodies to help protect your baby.

Your health authority may decide to test all patients when there are high 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.

Visitors

Most of the time, obstetrical patients have support persons during their labour and delivery. 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 procedure and COVID-19 safety, please contact your care team.

