



Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health

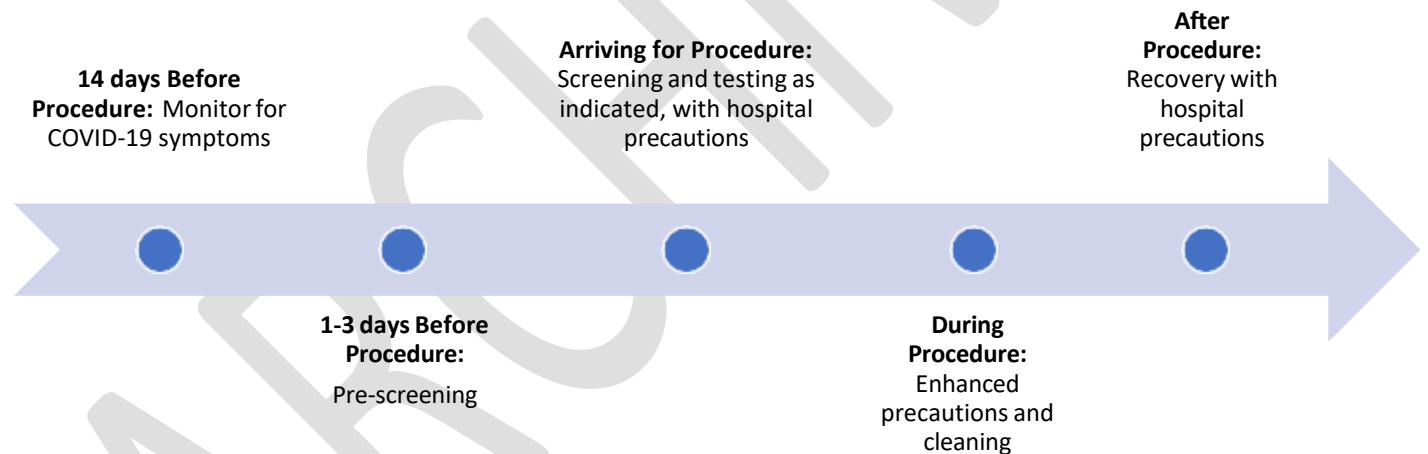


(Archived) COVID-19 and Pediatric Procedure: How We Are Keeping Your Child Safe

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What to expect before, during and after your child's procedure



14 Days before Procedure: Monitor for COVID-19 Symptoms

- Follow public health guidelines and [orders of the Provincial Health Officer](#) to limit your COVID-19 exposure risk.
- Monitor your child, the adults accompanying your child and all other household members for [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- Contact the surgeon's office if you, the accompanying adults, your child or anyone in your child's household has:
 - symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19
 - been notified by public health that they have been in close contact with someone who had COVID-19
 - been in, or is in a COVID-19 outbreak setting, such as at a school or workplace

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



Ministry of Health



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- travelled outside the country during the last 14 days

1-3 Days before Procedure: Pre-Screening

- Your surgical team will contact you to screen everyone in the child's household for COVID-19 symptoms and exposures.

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- Based on your screening results, you (or the accompanying adults) and your child may be directed to get a COVID-19 test before the procedure date.
- Please tell the screener if the accompanying adults live in another household so they can be screened as well.

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

- You (or the accompanying adults) and your child will be screened upon arrival to hospital for COVID-19 symptoms and exposures.
- You (or the accompanying adults) and your child will receive medical-grade face masks to wear in hospital after you wash your hands.
- A second screening will be done at the pre-operation unit.
- Based on the screening, your child may need a COVID-19 test before their procedure.
- For everyone's 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 surgical masks or N95 respirators, gloves, eye protection and gowns.

During Procedure: Enhanced Precautions and Cleaning

- Depending on your child's screening or test results, the surgical team may use additional PPE precautions to ensure the safety of your child and staff.

After Surgery: Recovery with Hospital Precautions

- After surgery, your child will be placed in a recovery room that is regularly cleaned and disinfected with enhanced COVID-19 safety measures between each patient.
- Depending on the screening or test results, your child may stay longer for monitoring during their recovery.

COVID-19 Testing and Your Child's Procedure

If your child has symptoms or has been exposed to COVID-19, they may require a COVID-19 test. Your health authority may decide to test all patients when there are high rates of COVID-19 in the region. In this case, they will get a COVID-19 test even without symptoms or exposures.

At this time, being vaccinated does not change COVID-19 testing requirements.



Postponing Your Child's Procedure

Your child's health and safety is our priority. Studies suggest that having a surgical procedure with COVID-19 may increase the chance of complications. If your child tests positive for COVID-19 just before procedure, your surgical team may decide to postpone. If the procedure is urgent, then the surgical team may decide to continue using appropriate PPE.

Visitors during Your Child's Procedure and Recovery

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 child's procedure and/or COVID-19 safety, please contact your child's surgical team.

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