

Resumption of Elective Procedures at Interfaith Medical Center

Elective Surgeries at Interfaith Medical Center

As of June 8, 2020, the state of New York is now allowing elective surgeries which were halted due to the COVID-19 crisis to resume. Elective surgeries can now take place at Interfaith Medical Center (IMC). Teams from across the Medical Center are working to ensure a safe environment, so that patients and families can be confident in coming in to get the care they need. Our wide range of protocols ensure all patients coming to us for care are safe and comfortable. From streamlined check-ins and distancing practices to deep cleaning and face mask requirements, we are taking every possible precaution to protect you and your loved ones.

Before Your Appointment

- **COVID-19 Screening:** Five (5) days prior to the elective procedure, you will patients be required to have a COVID-19 test completed at Interfaith Medical Center.
- **Phone Screening:** We will call you prior to your visit to ask if you have any COVID-19 symptoms.

During Your Visit

- **When You Arrive:** Upon arriving at Interfaith Medical Center you can feel confident you are entering a clean facility, where all areas are continually disinfected.
- **Symptom Screening:** All patients and visitors will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms, including temperature checks. Patients showing symptoms will be referred for appropriate care.
- **Mandatory Masking:** Throughout your visit at Interfaith Medical Center, all patients and staff are required to wear face coverings, as well as appropriate protective equipment. Patients and visitors will be provided with a mask.
- **Hand Hygiene:** During your visit, there's no better time to emphasize the importance of hand hygiene. We recommend that you wash your hands with soap and water at least for 20 seconds frequently. We also will make alcohol-based hand sanitizers readily available for our patients and staff throughout our health system in case you don't have access to soap and water.
- **Social Distancing:** We're minimizing contact between patients by spacing furniture, minimizing the number of patients in waiting areas, and scheduling more time between appointments. We are monitoring the number of patients in elevators. You will also see visual aids of our elevator safety guidelines. We also encourage the guidelines for social distancing, which is to keep six feet between people.
- **Face Coverings: What You Need to Know**
Anything that covers your nose and mouth while you are in public is what is recommended in order to prevent the spread of the infection. It can be a handkerchief or a scarf or a bandana. You can make something out of cloth. The CDC has provided plenty of helpful tips. You do not want something that can make you short of breath.
- **Why should I wear a face covering?**
Since early April, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended that people wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measure are difficult to

maintain, such as when grocery shopping. Shortly afterwards, the governors New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut ordered people to follow the CDC recommendations.

- **Do I need to use a face mask like the ones I see doctors and nurses wearing?**

No. In order to preserve supplies of face masks certified for use by health care workers, the directives require only that you cover your face.

- **What do I need if I am going to Interfaith Medical Center for care?**

All staff at Interfaith will be wearing medical face masks. If you arrive with a face covering that is not a medical face mask, we will provide you with a medical face mask. If you brought your own medical face mask, you may keep that on during your visit.

- **Visitor Policy during an Elective Procedure:**

We are following the New York State guidelines on visitor restrictions. Although we want our patients to have the support of their loved ones, for safety reasons we are permitting one family member/guardian to escort the patient during the elective procedure. Visitors will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms, including temperature checks. Visitors must wear mask at all times during the visit.

- **The Interfaith Medical Center Visitor Pilot Program**

New York State has implemented a two-week pilot program in a number of New York hospitals—including Interfaith—to allow increased visitations for family members and loved ones. As part of the pilot program, which began on Tuesday, May 26, visits will be time-limited, visitors will be provided with and must wear appropriate PPE, and all visitors will be subject to symptom and temperature checks. Learn more about the program's full details on our website.

Behind the Scenes

- **Continuous Cleaning:** All areas are rigorously disinfected, including waiting rooms, patient rooms, operating rooms, and high-touch surfaces. Patient rooms receive a ceiling-to-floor cleaning after a patient has been discharged and before a new patient is admitted, which takes approximately two hours and includes several quality assurance checks. In our outpatient practices, examination and treatment rooms are disinfected between patient visits. And high-touch surfaces such as door knobs and kiosks are continually cleaned.
- **Staff Screening:** Staff are monitoring themselves for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 twice daily and being tested for exposure to COVID-19.
- **Separation of COVID-19 Patients:** All of our patients who are being treated for COVID-19 are isolated from others.

Related Resources:

- NYS DOH
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>
- CDC website
<https://www.cdc.gov/>