



To: All Referring Providers
From: Gary Stephens MD, Chief Medical Officer
Date: June 25th, 2020
Subject: **Resumption of Elective Procedures**

Dear Provider

On June 8, 2020, New York City was deemed eligible to resume elective procedures. As such, Interfaith Medical will resume non-urgent procedures including elective surgery.

Interfaith Medical Center will require all patients, both inpatients and outpatients to be tested for COVID-19 within five (5) days of any interventional procedure. Please instruct your patients to walk-in to the PST area at IMC Admitting Department between 8AM-12 Noon, within 5 days of their scheduled procedure to be tested. ***We strongly recommend that patient be tested at least 48 hours (2days) before their procedure to avoid delays or cancellations.***

Please note the testing facility is NOT open on weekends, if your patient is scheduled for a procedure on a Monday or Tuesday they should be tested on the preceding Thursday or Friday.

Physician offices may choose to have their patients tested by a third-party approved laboratory (viral molecular assay). It is the responsibility of the Physician to ensure that a copy of the results is available to PST, or to provide the patient with a hard copy that they will present on the morning of their procedure.

Providers must counsel patients regarding social distancing, wearing facemasks, and minimizing contact with others for the 14 days before the surgery or procedure.

Exception to testing rule:

- **Emergent procedures:** where prior testing may not be feasible. A test will be performed as soon as possible and if positive, may result in the need for health care worker exposure protocols to be initiated.
- **Mentally challenged patients:** may be extremely difficult to perform nasal swab, putting patient and staff at risk of injury. We will treat these patients as COVID+, and will obtain a nasal swab in operating room after patient is under anesthesia.

Day before Procedure:

- a) Pre-Procedure phone call: Pre-op instructions, verify covid test status, review covid questionnaire. If patient is ill, Attending Physician and Anesthesia will be notified, and patient will be advised to see their PMD

Day of Surgery:

- a) A staggered start time may be necessary in order to decrease over-crowding and preserve social distancing
- b) PST staff will take temperature upon arrival and questionnaire given. Depending on the answers, the patient's procedure may be delayed for consultation with anesthesia and the Attending Physician. If procedure is postponed, the patient will be instructed to either see their PMD or go to the ER as warranted
- c) Advise patients and their escort to put on their own face covering before entering IMC. If patient presents without a mask one will be provided at security front desk
- d) Patient will receive instruction by PST to be dropped off (preferably) to decrease number of persons in waiting area of the main lobby
- e) PST will obtain the patients' escort's contact numbers
- f) Pediatric patients can be accompanied by 1 parent
- g) Mentally challenged patients can be accompanied by 2 attendants
- h) Elderly patients who cannot move about freely can be accompanied by 1 person

Thank you in advance for being proactive and ensuring that all patients are provided with the best and safe care.