

# Our Commitment to Each Other: Patient & Provider's Mutual Responsibilities During COVID

In the setting of the current COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical to our patients' health and successful surgical/procedural outcomes to avoid COVID-19 infection after surgery/procedure.

In times of restrictive social isolation "Stay Home, Stay Safe" programs, the very act of leaving home and coming to any public place carries some inherent risk of SARS-CoV-2 exposure, and then COVID-19 disease. Therefore, it is incumbent on physicians, their teams, and their facilities to provide as safe and sanitary a patient surgical/procedural experience as possible to achieve currently.

Patient, caregiver, and family/"dwelling partner" actions and behavior are even more critical to prevention of COVID-19 during the postoperative recovery phase of care, as it lasts much longer than just the day of surgery/procedure.

An infection of COVID-19 in a patient recovering from surgery/procedure not only threatens their life and health, but can lead to postoperative complications, and have permanent damaging effect on the outcome of their surgery/procedure. Therefore, a COVID-19 infection is critical to prevent.

The, simplest, most scientifically-proven prevention methods to date include:

- Social distancing of *at least* 6 feet between people at all times if possible.
- Minimizing interaction with other people except as necessary (e.g. medical follow-up and physical therapy visits).
- Avoid any close contact with people who are sick with COVID-19 symptoms (e.g. cough, fever, body aches, and general fatigue).
- Frequent hand washing or sanitizing for at least 20 seconds each time, especially before and after eating or touching the face or nose, putting on and taking off face masks or coverings, and necessary touching of others (e.g., patient medical care, changing surgical dressings, etc.).
- Wash hands before and after any time eye drops are administered.
- Regular and frequent cleansing of high-use surfaces (e.g. counters, doorknobs, drawer, cupboard, and refrigerator handles) with soap, bleach, or germicidal/virucidal cleansers.
- Wearing a face mask or cloth covering nose and mouth when outside your home at all times.

## **Patient Acknowledgment:**

I hereby acknowledge reviewing this document fully, and understanding its contents. I hereby agree to abide by the COVID-19 prevention measures listed above for at least the first 2 weeks after my surgery/procedure. I agree to ask my caregivers, "dwelling partners," and those who come in near contact with me to do the same.

Patient Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

PATIENT LABEL HERE