

COVID-19 Screening Requirements for Elective Procedures

Introduction

The New York State Department of Health (DOH), as a condition for the resumption of elective procedures, had previously mandated testing for SARS Cov-2 of all patients undergoing elective procedures within five days of the procedure (June 13, 2020 DOH Guidance).

In recognition of the widespread use and effectiveness of vaccination, in the setting of low community disease and testing positivity, that requirement has now been lifted (May 12, 2021 Guidance).

Testing Not Required

- All patients who have been **fully vaccinated** for COVID-19 must provide proof of vaccination in a HIPAA-compliant fashion to the proceduralist's office 5 days prior to the procedure date so it may be forwarded to scheduling offices. Fully vaccinated is defined as being two or more weeks after receiving the final dose (e.g., second of a two dose series, only dose of a one dose series) of a vaccine approved by the FDA or authorized by the FDA for emergency use
 - A copy of the vaccination record (CDC COVID Vaccination Card or NYS Excelsior Pass) will be scanned into the EMR
- **Recovered patients** (infection confirmed by positive test, now at least 2 weeks after testing and/or onset of symptoms, and now asymptomatic) who are less than 3 months from onset of their illness will not be required to have a COVID-19 screen prior to an elective procedure. Recovered patients must provide proof of positive testing results from at least 14 days (2 weeks) prior to the anticipated procedure to the proceduralist's office in a HIPAA-compliant fashion 5 days prior to the procedure date
- If these documents (proof of vaccination or proof of positive testing results) cannot be produced, then patients will need a COVID test within 5 days of procedure

Testing Required

- All patients who are **not fully vaccinated** and have **not recovered fully from a laboratory confirmed COVID illness in the past 90 days** (at least 21 days post positive test result) require a COVID test prior to any anesthetic or moderate sedation within 5 days of the scheduled procedure
 - Patients that have recovered from laboratory confirmed COVID positive illness in the last 90 days need to be evaluated for the urgency of their procedure
- COVID testing is required for **patients for whom screening has identified potential risk** (travel, exposure, symptoms)
- The day of the procedure an assessment for COVID symptoms will be done
- At this time, the process for obtaining a COVID screen will remain the same for all in-house and urgent/emergent cases

These directives are subject to change at any time based on the positivity rate of specific regions according to the NY Forward seven day-average. The Commissioner of Health may require pre-procedure COVID-19 testing for all asymptomatic patients irrespective of vaccination or COVID-19 recovery, if public health metrics warrant.