

PATIENT INFORMATION

COVID-19 and elective surgery

What you need to know

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What is being done to keep me safe and reduce my risk of COVID-19 infection if I go to hospital for elective surgery or a procedure?

The Bays Hospital follows national guidelines to prevent the spread of infections and to keep patients safe. During coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic you will notice that hospital staff may be using personal protective equipment (like gloves, gowns, masks and face/eye shields) to keep you safe.

Staff from The Bays will contact you on the day before your procedure over the phone to ask questions about; travel history, your residence, contact with someone who has tested positive and whether you have any symptoms. The questions they ask are to make sure your surgery is as safe as possible and to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) to health care workers.

When you arrive at the hospital we will ask you these questions again.

If you are unwell or have any symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) on the day of admission, please stay at home or call the hospital to advise us.

Do I need to be tested for coronavirus (COVID-19)?

You should only have elective surgery or a procedure if you are well enough. If you develop any symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) you will require a test. A Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) or PCR test is required before your operation.

Symptoms to watch out for are: fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of smell or taste.

Things to consider prior to being tested for Covid-19

If you have had COVID-19 in the past 30 days please notify your doctor who may reschedule your surgery.



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What should I do if I come into contact with a suspected or confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Ring your GP or the coronavirus hotline (1800 675 398). In regards to your surgery, please contact your surgeon.

Do not go to the hospital or GP clinic until you have phoned them first for advice. It will be important for your safety that the hospital knows whether you have become infected with coronavirus (COVID-19) before surgery even if at the time of surgery, you have no symptoms.

Where can I find out more information?

Victorian updates: coronavirus.gov.au

National updates: health.gov.au/news/latest-information-about-novel-coronavirus

If you are concerned please call the coronavirus hotline 1800 675 398

