**COVID-19 Information**

Surgical Specialty Center of Baton Rouge is committed to providing patient-centered care with superior outcomes. We practice under the most current standards and guidelines set by federal, state, and local government, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The Joint Commission (TJC), and other regulatory and advisory organizations. Our goal is to enhance general health and patient safety by reducing the risks of infections and other adverse events.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have ensured this by:

* screening all patients prior to surgery for symptoms of COVID-19, as well as potential exposures.
* placing hand hygiene stations conveniently located throughout the facility.
* installing plexiglass barriers between visitors and Admissions and front desk staff to reduce opportunities for transmission.
* labeling waiting area seating to encourage proper social distancing.
* requiring all staff, patients, and visitors who are not vaccinated against COVID-19 to wear a face covering while in the facility.
* providing all supplies necessary for our team to practice safely, including personal protective equipment.
* educating ALL hospital staff continually on COVID-19 and prevention measures.
* encouraging all hospital staff members to vaccinate against COVID-19.
* screening each staff member daily for signs/symptoms of COVID-19.

Visitors: Each patient is allowed two (2) visitors with them during their stay. Visitors must be over 12 years of age and are not allowed to switch out with one another to reduce the amount of traffic throughout the facility. Visitors who can answer “yes” to any of the following questions will be asked to wait **outside** of the facility:

* 1. Have you recently experienced:

• Fever • Cough

• Shortness of breath • Sore throat

• Congestion • Body aches

• Unexplained Fatigue • Nausea/vomiting

• Diarrhea • Loss of taste or smell

* 1. Have you been near someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?

*Note: Visitors who wait outside of the facility will be contacted by phone with updates after the patient’s procedure is complete.*

Frequently Asked Questions:

* What if I experience symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive for COVID-19 myself within 2 weeks of my surgery?
	+ Contact our Pre-Admit department as soon possible by calling (225) 408-5504. If you test positive for COVID, your surgery will need to be rescheduled. Pre-Admit staff will communicate with your doctor’s office during this process.
* I live with someone who has now tested positive for COVID-19 and my surgery is within the next 2 weeks; what do I do?
	+ Contact our Pre-Admit department as soon possible by calling (225) 408-5504.
* Do I need to have a COVID-19 test prior to having surgery?
	+ Your doctor will instruct you if you need to be tested prior to having your procedure.
* How do I keep myself safe from getting COVID-19?
	+ You should wash/sanitize your hands often, maintain proper distancing between yourself and others (6 feet), cover your nose and mouth with a face covering while in public and around others you do not live with if you are not vaccinated against COVID-19, and stay home if you are sick.
* Should I get vaccinated against COVID-19?
	+ The vaccines available for COVID-19 have been proven safe and effective in decreasing the risk of getting or spreading the virus and keeping you from getting seriously ill if you do get COVID-19. For information from the CDC regarding vaccine safety, click [here](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/safety-of-vaccines.html). For information on where to get a free vaccine in your area, click [here](https://www.vaccines.gov/search/) or dial 211.
* What do I do if I feel ill or have been directly exposed to someone with COVID-19?
	+ Contact your primary care doctor as soon as possible.
	+ The CDC is encouraging everyone who has had an exposure, regardless of if you are vaccinated or unvaccinated, to get tested for COVID-19. You can find testing sites [here](https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3934?clearCache=1).
	+ If your test is positive, notify your surgeon as soon as possible to reschedule your procedure.
* How do I keep up with the latest information and guidance surrounding COVID-19?
	+ The most up to date information from the CDC can be found [here](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html).

Thank you for choosing Surgical Specialty Center of Baton Rouge to meet your needs, and thank you for helping us keep our patients, our team, and our community safe!