

**Patient information: Pre-surgical/pre-procedural COVID testing – Swedish Gastroenterology
(Effective 10/12/2022)**

As of Wednesday, October 12, 2022, we will stop requiring pre-procedure testing for lower-risk to intermediate-risk surgical procedures, non-operative procedures, and Perinatal care.

What does this mean for you?

If you are scheduled for any GI procedure AND are asymptomatic, you are not required to have pre-procedure COVID-19 test. If you are experiencing any COVID symptoms and/or had recent high-risk exposure** to anyone with COVID, please call our clinic at 206-215-4250 to further discuss next steps.

Only surgical cases considered High Risk Procedures will be tested, in addition to patients that have known exposure to COVID-19 or present with COVID-19 or Influenza-like illness (ILI) symptoms.

If you have tested POSITIVE for COVID-19 less than 30 days from your scheduled procedure, you will need to reschedule. Please give our office a call ASAP at 206-215-4250. This will prevent your procedure being cancelled on the day of your appointment.

Per current Swedish guidelines, patients who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 DO NOT require additional testing prior to their scheduled procedure, IF they are asymptomatic and the diagnosis of COVID-19 was greater than 30 days ago, but less than 90 days ago.

In addition to the test, we also ask that you to maintain current safety guidelines prior to your surgery or procedure. Swedish has taken additional measures to keep you safe while you are at the hospital, including symptom screening stations at hospital entry for all staff and patients, increased cleaning/sanitizing, universal masking, and physical distancing. When you arrive at the hospital's entry station, we will ask you about COVID symptoms, take your temperature and give you a mask to wear if you have not brought your own.

Please log into MyChart to ensure that all listed contact information is correct. This will ensure our ability to successfully contact you to schedule your test and avoid any risk of cancellation of surgery.

Please review current visitation guidelines prior to coming to your scheduled surgical procedure. Be sure the hospital has current contact info for your support person. Thank you for complying with all these measures. They are all part of the many steps we are taking to keep you, other patients, and our caregivers safe.

****high-risk exposure: close contact to someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period without a mask.**