

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR SURGERIES & PROCEDURES

Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States has resumed surgical operations that were paused from COVID-19. The safety of our members is our top priority and we want you to feel comfortable returning for care. Kaiser Permanente wants patients to feel comfortable returning for needed care, and as part of that effort, it is using a new resource from the American College of Surgeons (ACS), "Preparing to have surgery during the time of COVID-19." Having frank and open discussions with your surgeon will help ease concerns.

"Our members need to know that their Permanente surgeon recognizes that returning for needed surgical care is a difficult decision during the time of COVID-19. They also need to know that their Kaiser Permanente surgical team has been leading the way in the community in providing the safest surgical care."

Dr. Linda Cardinal, Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group, Regional Medical Director of Surgical Services

The safety of our members is our top priority. Here is what Kaiser Permanente is doing to keep you safe for your surgery or procedure:



COVID-19 Testing:

Kaiser Permanente is testing all members prior to elective and urgent surgery. We will schedule your COVID-19 test at one of our drive-through testing sites 24-48 hours before your surgery or procedure. After the test, please self-isolate until your surgery.

Being COVID positive can affect surgical outcomes. If you test positive, your surgery will be postponed and rescheduled for a later date.

Social Distancing:

Just like our clinics, we are also increasing spacing in our Endoscopy and procedural areas. Virtual pre-operative and post-operative appointments are available. We have suspended family visitors to decrease exposure to your loved ones. Critical exceptions are:

- Pediatric patients may have one parent/guardian.
- Patients with altered mental status or developmental delays, may have one visitor.

Curbside pharmacy pick-up is available at all locations (except Prince George's Medical Center) so you can wait in your car.

Preventing the Spread:

- Kaiser Permanente has taken extra precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19 to provide the safest possible environment for everyone. All physicians, clinical staff, members and visitors are given masks upon arrival.
- Protocols include temperature screening, as well as asking about potential COVID-19 symptoms, contact with persons infected with COVID-19 and recent travel. Symptomatic staff will not perform direct patient work.
- Hand hygiene has always been an important part of the Kaiser Permanente culture. During this time, our staff are performing strict hand hygiene. We have also increased hand sanitizing stations throughout our clinical spaces.
- A universal deep cleaning of our operating suites is performed between each patient. Equipment, surfaces, and floors in our pre-operative, surgical and post-operative areas are disinfected using products that are effective against COVID-19.

National medical experts believe that COVID-19 will continue to circulate within our communities for months to come. Please know that we want to hear what is on your mind and answer your questions. Do not delay necessary care that is critical to your long-term health, and do not hesitate to reach out to schedule a discussion. Speak with your surgeon about weighing the risk and benefits of postponing versus moving forward with treatment. We put your health first. You can have confidence and trust that Kaiser Permanente is doing everything we can to ensure your safety.