

# COVID-19 / DELTA VARIANT FAMILY AND CAREGIVER EDUCATION AND PROTOCOLS



**THE HEALTH, SAFETY,  
AND WELL-BEING  
OF STAFF, PATIENTS  
AND CAREGIVERS  
REMAIN OUR  
HIGHEST PRIORITY.**

We recognize concerns surrounding the Coronavirus, or COVID-19 and the recent SARS2-CoV-2 Delta variant as you prepare for surgery. We want to provide reassurance that we are following the guidance of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), staying aligned with the public health protocol and actively monitoring this quickly evolving situation.

Under the guidance and recommendation from both the CDC and the Department of Health, St Charles remains committed to providing patients and caregivers with a safe surgical stay.

In an effort to clarify the requirements and recommendations that apply to your stay we are providing a summary of the various processes in place to help reduce the risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2, also known as COVID-19.



## PRE-OPERATIVE APPOINTMENT GUIDELINES

We are asking all patients and caregivers to wear a face mask for their appointments. If you do not have a mask, we will provide one for you upon arrival and provide instruction on proper placement over the nose and mouth.



## SCREENING FOR COVID-19

Prior to your surgery you and your caregiver will be screened by a hospital staff member to determine if you have:

- been in close contact with someone with known or suspected COVID-19.
- experienced any symptoms including fever, cough, nausea, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell, or shortness of breath, headache or extreme fatigue.
- recently travel to known areas with low vaccination rates and/or reported new outbreaks



## FOLLOWING YOUR PRE-OP VISIT

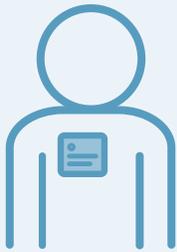
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid crowded areas and sick people.
- Practice social distancing when you do need to get out in public, which means staying six feet apart.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are touched often.
- Avoid restaurants, bars and other crowded spaces.
- Frequent use of hand sanitizer
- Wash your hands often. Wash for at least 20 seconds with soap and water; if soap and water is not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Wear a mask when social distancing is not possible



## OUR SAFETY MEASURES AND GUIDELINES

Our priority is always the health and safety of our patients, physicians, staff and community. St Charles Surgical is in close contact with the Louisiana Dept of Health Emergency Operations Center (LDH EOC) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to monitor the evolving situation of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

We want you to have confidence that we are taking all measures necessary to protect the health and safety of all those providing and receiving care at our facilities.



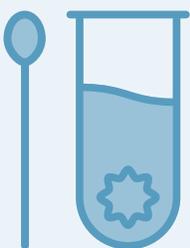
## ARE VISITORS ALLOWED?

We understand the important role that friends and family play in recovery, but find it necessary at this time to limit the number of visitors per patient. Beginning Friday August 13, 2021: Visitation is limited to a single caregiver (18 years or older) that must remain the same for the entire length of stay for the patient. Inpatient caregivers will be screened upon arrival by a member of our healthcare team and provided information on our current safety guidelines.



## ARE MASKS REQUIRED?

All hospital team members, vendors and contractors, and caregivers are required to wear a mask while inside the facility. Caregivers may remove their mask with the patients consent when inside the room.



## WHAT ARE THE SCREENING REQUIREMENTS?

All patients will be given a COVID test within 24 hours of surgery and encouraged to practice masking, social distancing, and to avoid public gatherings. Caregivers will receive an armband following a screening for symptoms and acknowledging hospital COVID guidelines. We ask that armbands remain in place during the hospital stay.



## CAREGIVER SAFETY MEASURES AT HOSPITAL

- Masking when outside patient room
- Practice social distancing when you are outside patient room, which means staying six feet apart.
- Use Hand Sanitizer at designated locations:
  - Entrance of hospital
  - Entering / exiting patient room
  - Exiting elevators
  - Coffee Bar / Nutrition Bar
- Wash your hands often. Wash for at least 20 seconds with soap and water; if soap and water is not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Wash hands with soap and water before and after eating
- Limit trips outside facility



## WORKING TOGETHER

All rooms and common areas are cleaned frequently with medical grade sanitizers and disinfectants as part of our comprehensive infection prevention protocol. Our housekeeping staff will pay close attention to cleaning “high-touch” surfaces such as phones, remotes, handrails and bedside tables.

Our staff will wear a mask when entering patient care areas and practice frequent hand hygiene.

We welcome your questions and commit to keeping you informed of changes as we receive updates from agencies guiding hospital practices.