

COVID-19 Screening Process for Patients Recovered from COVID-19

The preoperative evaluation of a surgical patient who is recovering from COVID-19 involves optimization of the patient's medical conditions and physiologic status. Since COVID-19 can impact virtually all major organ systems, the timing of surgery after a COVID-19 diagnosis is important when considering the risk of postoperative complications.

Taking both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for discontinuing isolation and the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) and Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (ASPF) guidance for classifying the patient as non-infectious, Northside Hospital has made the following addition effective immediately to the suggested wait time from the date of COVID-19 diagnosis to elective surgery:

Timing of Surgery following onset of COVID-19 Illness	Symptoms
One Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">For asymptomatic patients who have tested positive for COVID-19
Four Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">For a patient recovering from only mild, non-respiratory symptoms
Six Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">For a symptomatic patient (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) who did not require hospitalization
Eight to Ten Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">For a symptomatic patient who is diabetic, immunocompromised, or hospitalized
Twelve Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">For a patient who was admitted to an intensive care unit due to COVID-19 infection

For patients that have recovered from COVID-19, and are requiring time-sensitive, urgent or emergent procedures that fall outside of the recommendations, we will continue to evaluate those on a case by case basis.