About Coronavirus

With coronavirus (COVID-19), the safety of Saint Thomas Hospital for Specialty Surgery patients and visitors remains our top priority. We do NOT treat patients in our hospital with COVID-19. STHSS is closely monitoring COVID-19 developments in partnership with our local and state health departments and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

To protect our patients, staff, and community, we have implemented further restrictions on visitation in our hospital.

Thank you for your understanding during this challenging time. Be assured that our patients are getting exceptional care from our outstanding physicians, nurses, and staff in a way that protects their safety and that of others.

Comprehensive Screening

You will be screened several times before your procedure: On a health screening phone call, at your pre-admission visit, on the phone 3 days prior to surgery and a phone call the day before your procedure. You and your visitor will receive a temperature check and respiratory screen upon arrival to our facility on the day of surgery.

Active visitor restrictions

Saint Thomas Hospital for Specialty Surgery currently has a 'Limited Visitation' policy in effect. You may bring one visitor/family member with you. They will be able to stay with you until your surgery begins and will be given a full report by your physician at completion. After you have completed the recovery period, your visitor will be able to stay with you until discharge or 8pm if you are staying overnight.

During this time, visitors may want to consider alternative communication options, if available, such as phone, FaceTime, text or email.

Ample notice will be provided when they can come back to the hospital and pick you up for discharge.

Thank you for your help in maintaining a safe environment for our patients, colleagues and community.

Masking guidelines

We are continuing to follow CDC guidelines to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 public health crisis by implementing additional masking for all patients and visitors in public spaces such as waiting rooms, hallways and elevators.

- Patients and visitors will be instructed to wear a mask to the hospital on the day of surgery. If not available, masks will be provided to patients and visitors, and these masks should remain on until they are in their private room. Once in a private room, patients and visitors may remove their masks.
- Masks should be reused when visitors leave the room and until they exit the building.
- Visitors may use their own facemasks, instead of the masks provided by the hospital, but a mask must be worn.

COVID-19

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms of COVID-19 may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. These symptoms can range from mild to severe and include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Or at least two of these symptoms:

- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

What can I do to protect myself and others?

Public health officials recommend the following steps to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including influenza and COVID-19:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue

- Practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands often, using either soap and water or alcohol-based hand gel for at least 20 seconds
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Stay up-to-date

For additional information and ongoing updates on COVID-19, please refer to local and state health departments and the CDC's new site, https://www.coronavirus.gov/.

Measures are for the safety of everyone

The COVID-19 Hospital Visitor Policy is intended to provide additional safeguards for our patients, families, visitors and caregivers through decreased exposure to individuals who may have been exposed to the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Due to the changing nature of COVID-19's presence in Middle Tennessee, this policy will be revised accordingly in response to circumstances.