



COVID-19 POTENTIAL RISKS FOR OSS HEALTH PATIENTS

You are an important member of your healthcare team and we count on you to be actively involved in your healthcare decisions. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on all of us. Be assured that our commitment to providing all of our patients with safe, effective, and high-quality healthcare remains strong.

Although the COVID-19 virus is not fully understood by the scientific and medical communities at this time, some of what is currently known about the virus could impact medical procedures and surgery. It is important that you have this information so that you and your doctor can reach a shared decision about proceeding.

COVID-19 General Risk

Based on available information, the more points of potential exposure, the greater the risk. There are steps that can be taken to reduce the risk for getting or spreading the virus. OSS Health is following guidance from the CDC and other authorities to reduce the risk of exposure and spread.

Changes in Facility Operations

Many healthcare facility operations have been impacted and these changes could affect your experience. For example, you may see changes to the location of your care within the facility and the individuals involved with your care, as well as modifications to visitor policies and communication with your family members and friends.

COVID-19 Surgical Risks

OSS Health is currently testing all scheduled surgical patients and is not performing surgical procedures on any patient who test positive for COVID-19. For patients without symptoms or who are in the pre-symptomatic phase, it is uncertain whether there is any additional risk associated with surgery or general anesthesia.

Postoperative Care

As you know, even under normal circumstances, surgery is not without risk. If you do unfortunately experience a complication, the location and course of post-operative services may be affected. For example, your surgeon may choose to manage your care via a telemedicine appointment.

Advance Directives / Living Wills

Advance directives guide choices for your doctors and caregivers if you are unable to communicate your health care preferences or participate in decision-making. Advance planning has become even more important particularly as we face unusual challenges with COVID-19. Please refer to your surgical guidebook for more information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your physician's team at 717.848.4800