



System-wide Recovery Guidelines

Team: Operating Room (OR)
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II. Operationalization of Infection Control Guidelines

BILH's Infection Control Guidelines related to OR procedures can be referenced [here](#). The guidelines below outline recommendations for operationalizing these guidelines in the perioperative setting.

A. Staff Education

- i. To optimize patient care within locally implemented symptom-screening and testing workflows, BILH hospitals must:
 - a. Educate staff on COVID-19 symptom and exposure screening questions to be asked of patient, the location of the screening information, and follow-through steps for screen-positive patients
 - b. Educate staff on testing including preferred timing of tests, testing locations, counselling PCR-positive patients, indications and process for rapid testing, and follow-up for PCR-positive patients

B. Pre-Operative Testing and Screening

- i. To minimize the number of visits patients must make to the hospital prior to surgery, hospitals should, when possible:
 - a. Consolidate pre-operative testing needs (e.g., COVID-19 PCR testing, blood bank testing, etc.)
 - b. Facilitate the availability of testing at ambulatory sites rather than the hospital, and
 - c. Use virtual care to collect and discuss information.
- ii. To maximize symptom and exposure-screening and testing of patients, hospitals should:
 - a. Centralize screening and test scheduling processes through use of Pre-Anesthesia Testing (PAT) Clinics or similar mechanisms,
 - b. Identify who is responsible for:
 - Ordering the test,



- Communicating with the patient regarding the need to be tested and the process, and
 - Following up on test results, including
 - Communicating with the surgical team regarding positive test results, and
 - Communicating with the patient regarding test results and whether to proceed with surgery.
- iii. Adopt best-practice telehealth models in use by fellow BILH hospitals. For example, some organizations are conducting pre-operative symptom screening via text-messaging-based system while others are collecting this information via telephone.
- iv. To streamline communication around reduction of risk of nosocomial COVID-19 infection, hospitals will use BILH-developed FAQs and talking points about transmission risk and the preventive measures in place to ensure the safety of patients undergoing elective surgery.
- v. To ensure consistency of messaging to patients and the community, BILH requires hospitals to educate surgical, PAT, and anesthesiology staff across BILH on how to access and use the aforementioned communication tools.