

Infection Control Guidelines – Ambulatory Care

The following **Infection Control Guidelines for Ambulatory Care** have been developed in conjunction with updated RIDOH Guidelines: https://health.ri.gov/publications/guidance/covid-19-ambulatory-care-guidance.pdf?mc_cid=7cc3fe8b2d&mc_eid=dbb7eae106

<p>Level of Care Provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telehealth • Face to Face Available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telehealth visits will continue • Face to face visits will be scheduled based on clinical criteria and visit priority determined by the practice leadership
<p>Common Face-to-Face Visits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare Maintenance • Immunizations • Surgical Procedures • Crisis Evaluations
<p>Prioritized Face-to-Face Visits</p>	<p>Schedule Well Visits Before Sick/COVID Visits, where appropriate and possible (e.g., morning for well, afternoon for sick)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurements of Vital Signs, including pulse oximetry, that would affect clinical management • Chronic Disease Management, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diabetes ○ Uncontrolled Hypertension • In-Person Newborn Care, including, well visits and immunization of infants and young children to 24 months • Catch-Up Immunizations, especially for the youngest patients and those at higher risk for complications from vaccine-preventable diseases • Whenever possible avoid the use of paper screening tools. Consider obtaining history via phone or by means of the patient portal prior to scheduled visit.
<p>Infection Control Standards</p>	
<p>Limit the # of People Allowed into the Facility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During Visit: Only Patient (please refer to Lifespan Visitor Policy page: https://intranet.lifespan.org/sites/default/files/Admin%20187%20Lifespan%20COVID-19%20Visitation%20Policy_05.20.20..pdf) • Limit Points of Entry and Exit



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<p>Screening</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Screen all patients and visitors for COVID-19 symptoms prior to appointments so they are appropriately triaged ● Screen all patients and visitors for COVID-19 symptoms when they enter the facility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Perform Temperature Checks when screening questions cannot be reliably answered <p>If patient screens positive for symptoms of COVID-19, follow the outpatient algorithm for care of the patient: https://www.lifespan.org/lifespan-outpatient-algorithm-coronavirus-covid-19</p>
<p>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Patients/Visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cloth face coverings that cover the nose and mouth should be worn by all patients, essential caregivers and visitors. If a patient or visitor arrives without a face covering, provide a mask.
<p>Social Distancing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Waiting Rooms to be configured so that there is at least 6 feet between individuals ● When possible—have patients wait in their cars until ready to go to exam room ● Determine maximum number of patients allowed in the waiting room to maintain social distancing
<p>Environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In all Patient Areas: remove unnecessary objects, including magazines, books, toys and small furniture ● Clean and sanitize high-touch and common surfaces at a minimum of every 4 hours during business hours. Include counters, door handles, surfaces in waiting areas, and bathrooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assign task daily to a staff member ● Limit number of available bathrooms, if possible, to reduce areas to be cleaned ● Make standard medical masks and hand sanitizer readily available for patients and visitors
<p>Handling of Patient Paperwork and Cash (credit cards preferred)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Perform hand hygiene after handling paperwork, cash, credit cards, licenses and insurance cards ● Have patients sanitize hands before signing signature pad. Wipe down stylus and signature pads after each use with disinfectant