



Infection Control Guidelines – Outpatient/Ambulatory Practices

The following **Infection Control Guidelines for Ambulatory Care** have been developed in conjunction with updated RIDOH Guidelines: <https://health.ri.gov/publications/guidance/Guidance-for-Ambulatory-Care-Settings-for-Infection-Prevention.pdf>

<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 may 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 • Illnesses (including respiratory) where a physical exam is essential to a correct diagnosis and treatment plan • Patients uncomfortable with technology • 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 and One Essential Caregiver (Parent/Guardian of Patient) see the Lifespan Visitation Policy • Limit Points of Entry and Exit



Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May Screen all patients and visitors for COVID-19 symptoms prior to appointments so they are appropriately triaged• Review masking requirements. If patient unable to mask, refer to the Source Control Policy• 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</p>
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Patients/Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All patients and visitors will be provided a healthcare provided mask on entry to a Lifespan facility.• Cloth masks and valved masks will not be allowed unless covered by a healthcare provided mask.• If a patient or visitor enters wearing a surgical mask or non-valved N95, they may continue to wear that mask and may also be provided a healthcare provided mask to wear on top.
Social Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waiting Rooms may return to normal capacity if all patients and those allowed to accompany them are masked at all times
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clean and sanitize high-touch and common surfaces often per office protocol. 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• Hand sanitizer readily available for patients and visitors
Handling of Patient Registration & Payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have patients sanitize hands before signing signature pad. Wipe down stylus and signature pads with disinfectant.