

Don't Delay Care Frequently Asked Questions

What percentage of hospital employees have received the COVID-19 vaccine?

The majority of our employees and doctors who provide patient care have been fully vaccinated. The hospital will continue to vaccinate its employees and doctors in alignment with state guidelines.

Does the hospital still screen all doctors and nurses for COVID-19 symptoms?

Yes. Anyone who walks through the door of the hospital is screened for COVID-19. That includes not only doctors and nurses, but all employees, visitors, contractors and others who have business in the hospital or medical office. Most visitors are restricted in a further effort to control the spread. Also, almost all of the hospitals nurses and doctors have been vaccinated.

I'm in good health and decided to skip my annual check-up because I'm being very careful to avoid catching COVID. When is it safe to schedule my next physical?

We urge you to schedule an appointment as soon as possible to help ensure your continued good health. Primary care offices, outpatient centers and Providence hospitals remain safe, following very stringent safety guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Your provider may suggest a virtual appointment or, if you visit in person, you may be asked to wait in your car until your provider is ready to see you.

I delayed my mammogram due to COVID-19. Is it safe to schedule an appointment?

Yes, it's safe and essential to schedule mammograms, colonoscopies, prostate checks and other diagnostic tests that could detect cancer in the early stages when it's most treatable. All Providence facilities, including outpatient centers where most mammograms are performed, follow federal safety guidelines to control the spread of the virus. When you schedule your appointment, however, check ahead to see if your test requires a wait time if you've received the COVID-19 vaccination.

Are hospitals only accepting COVID-19 patients in their emergency departments?

No. The hospital's Emergency Departments is open to provide emergent care to those who need it. To ensure your safety, all patients are screened for symptoms of COVID-19. Those who test positive are separated from the general population to contain spread of the virus. **It is crucial that you get care when you need it.** Unfortunately, people delayed care for symptoms of heart attack, stroke, infection and other conditions, resulting in serious complications, including death.

I'm 8 months pregnant and nervous about my baby catching COVID. What precautions are you taking?

You and your baby will be safe at our hospitals where we take all federally recommended safety precautions. Our staff is screened daily, and most have been fully vaccinated. For your protection, just one support person is allowed in the maternity unit. COVID-19 patients, including new mothers, are separated from the general hospital population. Finally, we suggest you talk with your pediatrician about steps you can take when you and your baby go home.

I had COVID in the fall and am fully recovered. Do I need to check in with my doctor?

Yes. It's important to resume your regular care. Researchers have found some patients have suffered serious long-term conditions that must be monitored.

Should I wait until the pandemic is over to schedule my children's wellness checks?

Parents are urged to make sure their children's wellness visits are up-to-date, including childhood vaccinations. Your children are growing and it's important to have consistent health records.