



COVID-19

# Preparing for Surgery: COVID-19 Test

As you prepare for surgery at Children's Minnesota, please know that we are taking safety measures to help make sure your child is healthy for a safe surgery. Children scheduled for surgery should get a COVID-19 test within three days of surgery. The test helps decide the best timing for your child's care. If your child does not get tested for COVID-19, the surgery could be delayed.

## Children's Minnesota will call to schedule the test

An appointment is needed for a COVID-19 test. Children's Minnesota will call you to schedule the test after your surgery is scheduled.

We recommend getting tested at a Children's Minnesota drive-up swab center to make sure we have your results on file the day of surgery.

### Swab center hours:

Monday through Friday: 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

- **St. Paul Swab Center at the mobile clinic**  
233 Grand Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55102  
Entrance to the parking lot is on Thompson Street. Look for the mobile clinic bus in the parking lot. [View a map](#)
- **Minneapolis Swab Center**  
2545 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404  
Parking lot at Midtown Doctors Building [View a map](#)

### Instructions when you arrive:

Park in a numbered parking spot that has a "Swab Center" sign. Call the phone number on the sign:

- Minneapolis: 612-813-7787
- St. Paul: 651-220-7201

A health care provider will come to your car and provide instructions.

- Keep your child in their car seat, or on the seat with a seat belt on.
- To get the sample needed for the COVID-19 test, a long cotton swab will be put into your child's nose. This will likely be a little uncomfortable for your child. You can move to a different place in your vehicle to calm and comfort your child.





## COVID-19

- After the COVID-19 test, stay home and check for symptoms of COVID-19 to help protect yourself, your family and your community from illness. [Learn more](#).

### COVID-19 test results

The test results will take a few days to come back. You will receive a call about the next steps based on the test results.

### Other COVID-19 testing options

We understand the Children's Minnesota locations may not work for you. If you **do not** get tested at Children's Minnesota, you must bring a copy of your test results on the day of surgery to show you had a COVID-19 test.

### Other testing options

The COVID-19 test is needed within 3 days of surgery. Some clinics and other testing sites outside of Children's Minnesota may not be able to complete the test in that time frame, or have COVID-19 testing supplies. Other testing sites include:

- Your primary care clinic: Ask if you can schedule a COVID-19 test during your pre-surgery health and physical exam.
- You can also go to another [testing location](#). If requested by the testing facility, contact your child's primary care provider for an order for a COVID-19 test.
- Please make every effort to receive a COVID-19 test before surgery. If it is not possible for the patient to get a COVID test/results within 3 days before surgery, the patient and family **must** stay socially isolated. That means avoiding the following: having visitors, going to day care, going to work, going out in public unless absolutely necessary, and so on.

### Tips to prepare for the COVID-19 test

- If possible, limit the number of people in the vehicle to the driver and the child getting the swab.
- Everyone in the car should stay seated and belted.
- Everyone over the age of two years should wear a mask in the car.
- Staff at the testing site will wear equipment to protect your family and themselves from illness. [Watch this video](#) to help your child understand what staff may be wearing.





## COVID-19



### Who pays for the COVID-19 test?

**With health insurance:** The CARES Act requires that COVID-19 testing is covered by health insurance providers with no cost to the patient. This applies to most health insurance coverage in Minnesota. The CARES Act only applies to the COVID-19 test and not other office visits.

- Some insurance providers have agreed to cover the cost for in-network office visits associated with the COVID-19 test.
- **It is important to check with your health insurance provider to find out what costs may be covered.**

**No health insurance:** A government program pays for the COVID-19 test, but not office visits.

### Questions?

Contact your insurance company, or Children's Minnesota at [PatientCostEstimates@ChildrensMN.org](mailto:PatientCostEstimates@ChildrensMN.org) or call 952-992-5627 for help to understand the costs for a procedure or visit.

### What to expect on the day of surgery

- Two healthy parents/guardians can come with the child on the day of surgery.
- If you had a COVID-19 test at a different location (not at Children's Minnesota):
  - You must bring a copy of your test results that were obtained elsewhere to show you had a COVID-19 test. We can't accept verbal test results.
  - Ask the test center to fax your results to the Children's Minnesota surgery center where you will have surgery before arrival (if possible)
    - **St. Paul:** 651-220-7220;
    - **Minneapolis:** 612-813-7704
- **If you had a COVID-19 swab at Children's Minnesota, we will have your results on file when you arrive for surgery.**
- Check in at the Welcome Center when you arrive at [Children's Minnesota](#) on the day of surgery.
- Everyone at Children's Minnesota is required to pass a wellness screening, including a temperature check, to check for symptoms of illness.
- Everyone over the age of 2 years-old must wear a mask at Children's Minnesota. If you do not have access to masks, you will receive them at the Welcome Center when you check in.

### Questions?

With questions, please call the our free COVID-19 Nurse Line for assistance: 952-99-COVID (952-99-26843).