



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.





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- 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.





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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 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).