

## 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](https://health.ri.gov/publications/guidance/covid-19-ambulatory-care-guidance.pdf?mc_cid=7cc3fe8b2d&mc_eid=dbb7eae106)

<b>Level of Care Provided</b>  <b>Telehealth (preferred)</b> <b>Face to Face Available</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit type will be determined by provider based on clinical judgement for patient's healthcare needs.</li> </ul>
<b>Common Face-to-Face Visits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthcare Maintenance</li> <li>Immunizations</li> <li>Surgical Procedures</li> </ul>
<b>Prioritized Face-to-Face Visits</b>	<p><b>Schedule Well Visits Before Sick/COVID Visits</b>, where appropriate and possible (e.g., morning for well, afternoon for sick)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Measurements of Vital Signs</b>, including pulse oximetry, that would affect clinical management</li> <li><b>Chronic Disease Management</b>, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Diabetes</b></li> <li><b>Uncontrolled Hypertension</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>In-Person Newborn Care</b>, including, well visits and immunization of infants and young children to 24 months</li> <li><b>Catch-Up Immunizations</b>, especially for the youngest patients and those at higher risk for complications from vaccine-preventable diseases</li> <li><b>Whenever possible avoid the use of paper screening tools.</b> Consider obtaining history via phone or by means of the patient portal prior to scheduled visit.</li> </ul>
<b>Infection Control Standards</b>	
<b>Limit the # of People Allowed into the Facility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>During Visit:</b> Only Patient and One Essential Caregiver (Parent/Guardian of Patient)</li> <li><b>Limit Points of Entry and Exit</b></li> </ul>

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