

**COVID 19 INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL GUIDELINES**



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### 1. Policy

At Fordsburg Clinic we implement Best Practice Standards and provide world class service to our patients, staff and participating healthcare practitioners.

In an effort to ensure the safety of our doctors, staff, patients and visitors we implement strict Infection Prevention and Control practices in alignment with the South African National Health Department's strategy as well as that recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

### 2. Prior to admission

- 2.1 All surgeons must assess their patient's Medical and Surgical risks before scheduling them for surgery.
- 2.2 Only patients below 16 years of age will be permitted to have 1 parent accompany them to the ward. People accompanying patients to the Clinic will be called when the patient is ready for discharge (which is approximately 3-4 hours after the procedure.)
- 2.3 All patients going to theatre are required to undergo a COVID19 PCR test within 72 hours before being admitted.  
  
Patients must be at Fordsburg Clinic at least 1 ½ hours before the procedure.
- 2.4 The COVID19 test results must be sent to the admissions department by no later than 14h00 the day prior to the procedure via email to [reception@fordsburgclinic.co.za](mailto:reception@fordsburgclinic.co.za). Or whatsapp to **0639949131**.
- 2.4.1 If this is not received, the patient will not be permitted entry into the facility (the patient will have to wait in the car, or at home till the result is obtained) or the procedure will need to be

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rescheduled. This will unfortunately result in the patient having to repeat the COVID test prior to their new procedure date.

### **3. Upon entering the facility**

- 3.1 All persons (Patients, visitors, doctors, staff) entering Fordsburg Clinic, will be screened by the security personnel at the front gate.
  - 3.1.1. Temperature will be taken.
  - 3.1.2. Screening form must be completed.
  - 3.1.3. All questionnaires will be filed and kept in reception.
- 3.2. Social distancing (more than 1 meter) will be enforced at all times.
- 3.3 Every person entering the facility must clean their hands with hand sanitiser – the sanitisers are located at the entrance and at strategic places around the hospital.
- 3.4 All vendors, company representatives, delivery personnel, must wait at reception, and the appropriate person will be called by reception.
- 3.5 PPE will be given to all health care workers at Fordsburg Clinic.
  - 3.5.1. Surgical masks must be worn by every person entering the building
  - 3.5.2 N95 Mask will be provided to all staff and doctors doing and assisting with intubations and surgical procedures, (Particularly aerosol-generating procedures)
  - 3.5.3. Face Shields will be provided to all staff and doctors doing and assisting with intubations and surgical procedures (Particularly aerosol-generating procedures)
  - 3.5.5 Plastic aprons and Gloves must be worn by all clinical , CSSD and waste-disposal staff.

### **4. Wards**

- 4.1 The ward staff must wear PPE – masks, gloves, aprons, and face-shields when attending to patients.
- 4.2 In the ward, social distancing must be practised - a patient occupying every second bed, and screened by the bed curtains.

### **5. Operating Theatre**

- 5.1 Only one patient will be allowed in the Waiting Area of the Operating Theatres.
- 5.2 One parent will be allowed to accompany a child below 16 years old into the theatre, until the child is anaesthetised.
- 5.2 The anaesthetist, anaesthetic nurse and the circulating nurse must wear PPE – masks, plastic apron, face shield and gloves.

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- 5.3 The surgeon and scrub nurse will wear a plastic apron, N95 mask, face shield and will do a surgical scrub and don a sterile gown and sterile gloves.
  - 5.4 Good Housekeeping will be practiced after each procedure, and at the end of the theatre list
  - 5.5 The UVC disinfectant light must be used at the end of the list on all rooms that was utilised.
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- 6.1 Social distancing will still be adhered to post operatively in the ward
  - 6.2 One parent will be allowed for children under the age of 16 years old.
  - 6.3 Patients must organise to be fetched on discharge, as they would not be able to drive a vehicle

After anaesthesia.

- 6.4 When the patient is ready to be discharged, the ward nurse will phone the family for the patient to be fetched.

- 6.1 Hand hygiene.
- 6.2 Use of personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves, masks, aprons, eyewear).
- 6.3 Respiratory hygiene / cough etiquette.
- 6.4 Sharps safety
- 6.5 Safe injection practices
- 6.6 Aseptic Technique during sterile procedures
- 6.7 Sterile instruments and devices.
- 6.8 Environmental Cleaning.
- 6.9 Safe handling of linen & Laundry

**Reference: Department of Health Covid 19 Infection Prevention & Control Guidelines for South Africa Draft 1 - 2021**

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