

Wait Time for Elective Surgery and Anesthesia for Patients after COVID-19 Infection

Asymptomatic patient or recovered from only mild, non-respiratory symptoms.

4 weeks

Symptomatic patient who experienced mild to moderate symptoms (cough, dyspnea) but did not require hospitalization. (Generally patients without viral pneumonia or oxygen saturation below 94 percent)

6 weeks

Symptomatic patient who is diabetic, immunocompromised, or hospitalized.

8 to 10 weeks

Patient who was admitted to an intensive care unit for COVID-19 infection.

12 weeks

Surgical procedure, duration, patient co-morbidities, and the benefit/risk ratio of further delaying surgery need to be considered and assessed.

When to repeat the pre-operative COVID-19 PCR?

DO NOT repeat PCR testing within 90 days in asymptomatic patient or in mild cases since persistent or recurrent positive PCR tests are common after recovery.

Repeat PCR testing within 90 days in patient who has recurrence of symptoms, in addition to consultation with an infectious disease expert.

Repeat PCR testing once the 90-day recovery period has ended ideally \leq three days prior to the procedure.