

Preparing for your Ophthalmology Day Surgery at the Michael Garron Hospital

Dear Patient,

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, we have changed some policies that will impact you during your surgical visit. Rest assured, we are committed to providing you with a safe environment and have taken every precaution to do so.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOU VISIT

- **14 days BEFORE surgery:** you MUST self-isolate for two weeks before coming for surgery. More information on self-isolation is available through Public Health Ontario or your doctor's office.
 - Immediately notify your surgeon if you or your household contacts are diagnosed with COVID-19 or develop any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - New or worsening cough
 - New or worsening nasal congestion
 - New or worsening shortness of breath
 - Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
 - Loss of sense of taste/smell
 - Sore throat
 - Known COVID-19 positive

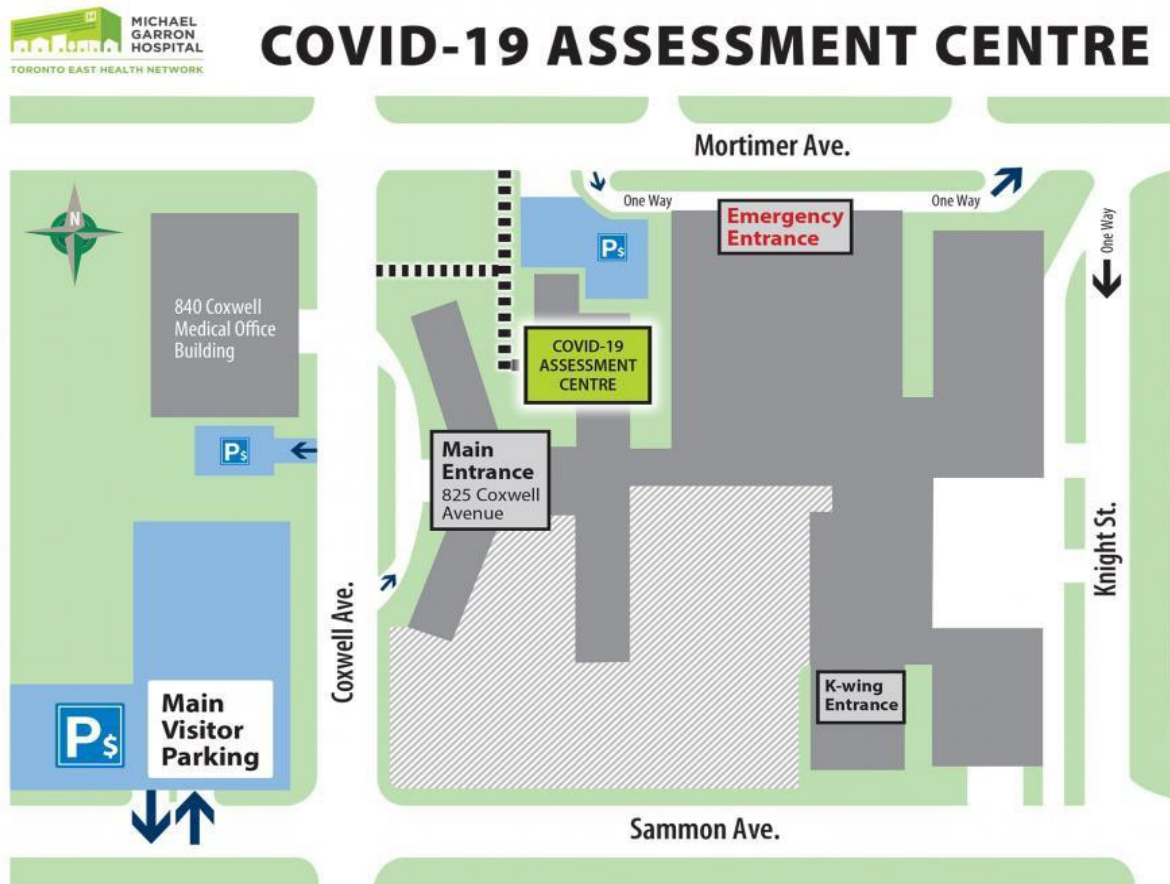
– **5 days BEFORE your surgery:** ALL patients will receive a call from our Pre-op Assessment Clinic (PAC) for further COVID-screening. In addition, **ALL patients require a COVID-19 test 4 days prior to surgical date.** If one has not been already arranged, the PAC and/or your surgeon's office will arrange an appointment date. Should you obtain a COVID test outside of MGH Please ensure you bring a copy of your results with you day of surgery and/or fax to # 416-469-6560. NOTE: IF an appointment date for COVID-19 test has not been obtained please proceed to WALK into the MGH COVID-19 Assessment Centre between the hours of **8am and 7pm, four days prior to surgery - COVID Assessment Centre is open 7 days a week.**

YOUR EYE SURGERY DATE WILL BE ON: _____

YOUR COVID-19 TEST APPOINTMENT DATE WILL BE ON: _____

Arrive anytime between the hours between 8a.m. – 7p.m. (4 Days prior to your surgery date)

LOCATION & Contact for MGH COVID-19 Assessment Centre – 825 Coxwell Avenue – Entrance is off of Mortimer Avenue, west of the Emergency Department. NOTE: the COVID-19 Assessment Centre cannot be accessed from inside the Hospital.



- The **day before** surgery, please call the Admitting Department at **(416) 469- 6580 ext. 6381**. The admitting clerk will tell you what time to arrive at the hospital so that the staff can prepare you for your procedure.
 - **If your procedure is on a Monday:** Please call **after 3 p.m.** on the **Friday** prior to surgery; you can also call on the weekends.
 - **If your procedure is any other day of the week:** Please call between 3 p.m. - 10 p.m. the day before your surgery.
 - You will be told to arrive 60 minutes prior to your appointment for surgery. **NOTE: If you arrive more than 60 minutes prior to your appointment for surgery, you will be asked to return to your car until 60 minutes before your appointment.**

- You will be screened (not tested) for COVID-19 in the lobby upon your arrival to the hospital.

Screening will involve asking you a series of questions. **If you do not pass the screening assessment, you will not be able to have your surgery and must reschedule by telephone.**

- Escorts/family members bringing you to your appointment will not be able to accompany you throughout your surgical visit. They may bring you up to the **J6 Ophthalmology Suite** but then will have to go back down to wait in the car/elsewhere. Exceptions will be made for those who have mobility challenges or require translation. We will contact your escort/family member when you are ready to be discharged. You will be picked up by your escort/family member at the **J6 Ophthalmology Suite**.
- Total duration will be 1.5 to 3 hours for your surgery visit.
- Please wear a mask to your appointment. You must put the mask on before you enter the building. Cloth masks are acceptable, however upon arrival you will be provided a medical grade mask that should remain in place for the duration of your stay / visit to the hospital. Once you leave the hospital you can return to using your cloth masks.
- Once the mask is in place, please avoid touching your mask or face.
- Do not wear disposable gloves as they provide a false sense of security and need to be sanitized with hand sanitizer. The hand sanitizer erodes the plastic, rendering plastic gloves useless.
- Avoid using cash. Credit and debit payments are preferred to minimize contact.
- Perform hand hygiene frequently, washing your hands for a minimum of 15 seconds.

THE NIGHT BEFORE SURGERY

Can I **EAT** before my surgery?

- **NO** - Do not eat any food after midnight. If you eat your procedure will be cancelled.

Can I **DRINK** before my procedure?

- You can drink **WATER ONLY**. No other fluid can be consumed or your surgery will be cancelled. **STOP** drinking 2 hours before your scheduled arrival time.
- If you have diabetes AND your blood sugar is below 5.0 mmol/L, you may have a half cup of clear apple juice in order to raise it to at least 5.0 mmol/L. **STOP drinking 2 hours before your arrival time.**

THE DAY OF SURGERY

On the morning of surgery, take all of your routinely prescribed medications including blood pressure medications (with sips of water), unless your physician instructs you otherwise.

If you have Diabetes **and require INSULIN**, please follow the dosing instructions you received during your Preoperative Assessment Clinic (PAC) appointment or the information sheet that you received from your physician's office.

Visitor Policy (Adults):

- **Pre-Operatively** - Escort/family member bringing you to your appointment will NOT be able to accompany you throughout your surgical visit. They may bring you up to the Ophthalmology Suite but then will have to go back down to wait in the car/elsewhere. Exceptions will be made for those who have mobility challenges or require translation.
- **Post-Operatively** - After your procedure, we will contact your escort/family member when you are ready to be discharged. You will be picked up by your escort/family member at the Ophthalmology Suite on J6.

Preparing for the Day of your Surgery:

Please **BRING** these items to the hospital with you:

- The **Original copy of your Pre-op Health History Patient Questionnaire** if not already returned to surgeon's office.
- Ontario Health Card
- All medications that you are actively taking, including ALL your eye drops (prescribed by the Ophthalmologist).
- If you are not able to communicate in English and unable to provide your own interpreter, MGH has a phone service available to translate on your behalf.
- **Escort:** You **MUST** have a responsible person to escort you home. **NOTE:** your eye surgery will be cancelled if you do not have a responsible person to take you home after your surgery.
- Storage case for your eye glasses.
- Contact lenses should be removed pre-operatively.

Please **DO NOT BRING:**

- Any **valuables** - the hospital does not assume responsibility for lost or stolen items.

Once you have arrived at the hospital and have been screened for COVID-19, please proceed to Central Registration.

Enter the hospital through the doors located on Coxwell Avenue where you will be screened for COVID-19. Then go to the **Admitting Registration Department**, located on the main floor, G Wing.

After you are registered, take the G/H wing elevators to the 6th floor. Once you get off the elevator follow the **J-wing** and "**Ophthalmology Suite**" signs or **Green Dots** on the floor.

Ophthalmology Suite - J6

Your preparation, eye procedure, recovery and discharge will occur in the **J6 Ophthalmology Suite**. You will probably be at the hospital for 1.5 - 3 hours.

A nurse will prepare you for your procedure.

- **Please wear a short-sleeved shirt.**
- The nurse will check your vital signs and blood sugar (if applicable), ask you questions, start an intravenous in your arm and give you eye drops.
- The Ophthalmologist will “freeze” your eye using drops, so you will not feel the procedure on your eye.
- The Anaesthetic Assistant will administer medication to relax you before the procedure begins.

After your Procedure - Discharge:

When you are ready to go home, your nurse will review your discharge instructions.

Please read all these instructions carefully. If you have any questions, please ask the nurse or call your Ophthalmologist’s office.

You will be given a follow-up appointment with your Ophthalmologist, usually the same day or the following day. Please bring your eye drops to this appointment.

Do **NOT** drive a car for at least 24 hours following your eye surgery.

| IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Pre-operative Assessment Clinic (PAC) | (416) 469 – 6580 ext. 2813 Fax (416) 469 – 6560 |
| Pre/Post-Operative Day Surgery Unit | G6 (416) 469 – 6580 ext. 6564 J6 (416) 469-6580 ext. 2991 |
| Surgical Waiting Room | (416) 469 – 6580 ext. 2343 |