

How will South Peninsula Hospital ensure my safety when I come for regular care and services?

South Peninsula Hospital takes your health and safety very seriously, and has instituted extremely thorough practices at every step along your visit to ensure you can receive the services you need while removing fear and anxiety about your personal safety.

Every person arriving to the hospital is greeted and screened before continuing on into the hospital, whether they are a patient, visitor or staff member. Screening includes questions such as:

- Have you been tested for COVID? If so, when and what were the results?
- Do you have COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, decreased appetite, chills, diminished sense of taste or smell, diarrhea, fatigue, headache, muscle/joint aches, nausea, rash, rigors, runny nose, sore throat, or sputum production.?
- Are you experiencing any other new, unexplained symptoms?
- Have you had close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 positive person?
- Have you traveled or do you have close contact with anyone who has traveled outside of Alaska in the last 14 days?

Once you are cleared to enter, you will be required to wear a mask inside, as is everyone, including all employees. If there are medical reasons you are unable to tolerate a mask, let us know and we will work with you.

There is immediate access to a bathroom for handwashing, and hand sanitizer in various locations. All areas used frequently are cleaned and disinfected regularly, with increased attention paid to areas where there are patient interactions.

You will notice some common areas are now closed, or closed to the public, including the cafeteria, gift shop, some waiting areas, and side entrances. We appreciate your understanding our need to limit areas where people congregate in order to help keep everyone as safe as possible.

For that same reason, visitors are limited to one person per patient, and must limit their visit to the department the patient is in. Visitors to Long Term Care, however, are not permitted at this time, for the safety of our most vulnerable population.

Can I trust that the person taking care of me doesn't have COVID-19?

YES! An employee with ANY symptom, no matter how mild, is expected to stay home from work and is tested for COVID-19. Strict return-to-work protocols are in place, even if they ultimately test negative for the virus. For an employee who does test positive, we follow guidance from CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and Alaska Public Health to ensure the employee is safe to return to work once they have recovered.

Our policies are designed to treat everyone – every patient, every visitor and every employee – as potentially contagious. That is why we utilize appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), practice safe physical distancing, wear masks and cloth face covers, wash our hands, and frequently clean commonly touched surfaces. We've adapted work spaces, eliminated seating to limit the number of individuals in a room, put tape on the floor to identify 6-foot distancing, added numerous outdoor break areas and prioritize staff education. By adopting these measures and behaviors in every department, with every interaction, it reduces exposure risk to all staff and patients, which in turn prevents the spread in the community.

Next to safety, there is nothing more important in this pandemic than patient trust and confidentiality. Our goal is to continue to earn your trust, protect your privacy, and be your preferred healthcare facility now and always.

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