



Considerations for Resuming Non-Essential Medical Care for People with COPD During the COVID-19 Pandemic

If your state has allowed elective medical care to resume AND your health system has restarted, the decision should be made after considering your risks and benefits AND talking with your healthcare team.

Questions to Consider & Discuss with your Healthcare Team

What are the benefits & risks of the procedure or test itself?

Is telehealth an option?

- Does your doctor think it is important for you to be seen in person vs telehealth?
- Some services are not possible via telehealth, e.g. physical exam, injections, blood testing, x-rays, pulmonary function testing

What is the level of COVID-19 exposure risk?

- Is there active community transmission of COVID-19 in the area where you will go to get care?
- How frequently will you need to go to a healthcare facility to receive care?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will you need to travel long distance? If so, how will you limit COVID-19 risk during your travel (e.g. bathroom use, hotel stays, meals) • Can you bring a caregiver with you to the visit? If so, how will they be protected from COVID-19 exposure if they must wait for you? If not, will you be able to manage the care on your own?
<p>What precautions have the medical facilities (e.g. clinic, hospital, lab) put into place?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there special accommodations to minimize contact with others in the public spaces, elevators, waiting areas, etc.? • Do they have procedures for sanitizing their exam rooms including cleaning, spacing out visits and wearing masks and/or face shields? • Will you need COVID-19 testing prior to your visit, particularly for pulmonary function tests or sleep studies with CPAP? • Will you be allowed to wait in your car until you are called into the visit? If so, do you have adequate supply of oxygen?
<p>What is the risk that your condition could rapidly progress if you DIDN'T get the procedure/test?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the best available data tell you about the risks of waiting? • Is there anything about my medical history that suggests it could be too risky to wait?
<p>Are there alternatives that will be adequate to prevent rapid progression in the meantime if you delay?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you optimized your medical management strategies other than the proposed procedure? • Are there any lifestyle adaptations or supportive therapies that would help ease the burden of symptoms in the meantime?
<p>Is the necessary follow up care available and of acceptable COVID-19 exposure risk?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What follow up care is required after the procedure/test? • Is follow up available by telehealth?

- Is all follow up care and services open and readily available during the pandemic (ex. PFT labs & pulmonary rehabilitation programs are mostly closed)?
- Will you feel comfortable with home care if needed?