

KINGSTON GENERAL HOSPITAL
PERIOPERATIVE SERVICES POLICY

SUBJECT: Elective Surgery after COVID-19 Infection	NUMBER	
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	ORIGINAL ISSUE	2022-02-28
	REVIEW	
	REVISION	

PREAMBLE:

Patients with recent COVID-19 infections are at increased risk for perioperative complications.¹ Where clinically acceptable, scheduled surgery should be delayed to reduce the risks of complications.

POLICY:

1. The following wait periods are recommended before proceeding with an elective surgical procedure after testing positive for COVID-19 (rapid test or PCR):

Severity of Symptoms	Recommended Delay
Asymptomatic or Mild Non-respiratory symptoms	4 weeks
Mild Respiratory Symptoms	6 weeks
Symptoms requiring hospitalization or immunocompromised	8-10 weeks
ICU Admission	12 weeks
Unvaccinated who was asymptomatic or mild symptoms	7 weeks

2. Delay in scheduled surgery needs to be weighed against time-sensitive needs of individual patients
3. If the patient has ongoing symptoms, an extended delay should be considered.
4. If surgery is deemed necessary during the period of likely increased risk, the risks should be included as part of the discussion and documentation of informed consent.
5. Any decision to proceed earlier than these timeframes should consider:
 - the severity of the initial infection
 - ongoing symptoms
 - comorbidities and frailty status
 - complexity of the surgery

Reference:

1. <https://www.asahq.org/about-asa/newsroom/news-releases/2022/02/asa-and-apsf-joint-statement-on-elective-surgery-procedures-and-anesthesia-for-patients-after-covid-19-infection>