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It's very important for making sure that our health care workers and our patients remain safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. We want to make sure that there is no spread of disease, so we've taken a lot of extra steps for that. For instance, COVID-19 patients are kept in a separate area of the hospital, in our emergency departments, and patients coming in for surgery are having a COVID-19 test before their procedure.

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The term is called cohorting. So those individuals that either have COVID-19 or are highly suspected of having COVID-19 are cared for in a separate area of our emergency departments, a separate area of our hospitals. And even during clinics, they're having separate hours for patients that come with those types of fevers or respiratory illnesses. In between, we're doing exquisite cleaning. And of course, we're asking everybody to mask, regardless of whether you have symptoms or not.

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Masks are one of our very important tools that we have to reduce spread. So if we all wear a mask, then no droplets can go from an infected person to a non-infected person. And we know that one of the things with COVID-19 that's unique is sometimes we can be infected even when we don't have symptoms. So wearing a mask is incredibly important.

Our surgical patients are a very special patient population. Some of them may have comorbidities of diabetes, hypertension, cancer, immunosuppression that make them more susceptible to COVID-19. And in addition to that, we know that patients that undergo surgery, if they get COVID-19, are going to have a higher rate of complications, and potentially have poorer outcomes from their surgery. So we're testing all of our surgical patients before they come in. They come through a separate entrance, and we're also putting them in a special section of the hospital for the recovery.

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One of the most prominent symptoms that COVID-19 has is fever. So we're doing screening of our employees as they come to work. We're screening our patients as they come for care. And when we do open up for visitors, we expect that we'll be screening for them, as well. Infrared cameras are a great way for us to do that. It's great technology that we have at some of our hospitals because we can screen a lot of individuals in a relatively quick period of time, with no touch.

When you see the safety seal, it should remind you of all of these things that Banner Health is doing to make sure that you are safe when you come to see us for care, as well as making sure that all of our health care workers are safe and healthy who are here to take care of you.

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