



Caring for you safely

We understand that you may have limited your healthcare appointments due to COVID-19, and that you may have questions about returning to a healthcare location for sleep testing services.

We have added new cleaning procedures to our already high standards to ensure your safety. These procedures meet or exceed guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) with respect to patient safety, workforce safety, personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection control, and the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM).

Here are some of the steps we are taking to protect our patients. Please contact us at 617-796-7766 if you have additional questions.

No COVID Patients



Emerson Hospital closed overnight testing facilities in mid-March. Our facilities only provide diagnostic testing.

Triple Screening for Symptoms



We check with every patient three times before any appointment to confirm they are not experiencing, or have been in contact with anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. This includes at the time of scheduling, 24-72 hours before the appointment and again upon arrival.

COVID Testing Prior to Sleep Study Appointments



For some procedures, patients must be tested for COVID-19 within 72 hours before their sleep study appointment and are requested to self-quarantine at home between the COVID test and their sleep testing appointment. Anyone that tests positive for COVID-19 must postpone their visit for 14 days from the date of the COVID test and we'll obtain a new order for the test.

Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection



We have always had high cleaning standards and use disinfectants approved for removing coronaviruses to clean and disinfect patient rooms, high-touch areas and common spaces like lobbies, hallways and waiting rooms. We have increased the frequency of cleaning common areas and removed reading materials and other non-essential items that are frequently handled and may be difficult to clean. As always, medical equipment and exam rooms are cleaned before and after every use. We have added single use/disposable equipment to replace equipment that touches the mouth or nose. In addition, we make disinfecting wipes available for patients to use, for added peace of mind.

Ensuring Staff Safety



All staff members will have daily screening to ensure they do not have any signs or symptoms associated with COVID-19. If a staff member reports any symptoms, they cannot return to work until they are evaluated by their physician and fully recovered.

To protect themselves and patients, staff members wear full Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) including masks, gloves, eye protection and other personal protective equipment when interacting with any patient.

Hand Hygiene



Hand hygiene is the most essential part of our safety program. Staff members will wash their hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after any interaction with you. Hand hygiene products are also readily accessible for everyone to use throughout our facilities.

Masks for Everyone



All staff, patients, visitors and essential patient escorts must wear a mask at all times. Patients will be able to remove their masks when they are ready to sleep. For patients, visitors and escorts, a cloth face cover like a fabric mask is acceptable. A mask will be provided to anyone who arrives without one.

Visitor Restrictions



Visitors are currently not permitted, unless an essential escort for a patient under the age of 18. Essential escorts (and visitors, when allowed) will be checked for symptoms of COVID-19 upon arrival. Masks or cloth face coverings must be worn at all times. Visitors who have symptoms of a recent diagnosis or exposure to someone who was recently diagnosed with COVID-19 will be asked to postpone their visit and may not enter the facility.

Secure Entrances and Exits



We have one door to enter to our sleep testing centers to ensure anyone entering, including patients, staff, approved visitors, and essential escorts, are checked for symptoms and wearing masks.

Facility Changes



Our facilities have been carefully adapted with safety precautions in mind to accommodate and monitor appropriate physical distancing and pedestrian traffic flow.

Touch-Free Check-in and Check-out



New processes may enable pre-registration to be done by phone or online in advance of your appointment and to minimize sharing objects like pens and clipboards.

Waiting Room Alternatives



We have implemented a procedure to bypass the waiting room, by requesting patients to call upon arrival to the parking area. This allows so that the technologist to meet the patient at the door to the Sleep Center, provide a mask and hand sanitizer, and immediately escort them to his/her bedroom. In addition, appointment arrival times are separated by at least an hour, to avoid more than one patient arriving in the center at the same time.

EMERSON HOSPITAL– SLEEP TESTING CENTER INFORMATION



You are scheduled for a sleep test at Emerson Hospital located at:

**Old Road to Nine Acre Corner
Concord, MA 01742
617.796.7766**

COVID TESTING PRIOR TO YOUR SLEEP STUDY

If you've been informed that a COVID test will be required before your procedure (SPLIT or CPAP STUDIES), you will be contacted by the Emerson Hospital Laboratory's Drive-Through COVID testing program to schedule an appointment date and time 2-3 days before the sleep study appointment. Adults accompanying a child scheduled for testing will be screened for COVID symptoms/exposure on the day of the appointment, and again upon arrival to the hospital.

INSURANCE INFORMATION

Check directly with your insurance carrier regarding any out of pocket expenses related to your test. Your insurance may not pay for 100% of your sleep study. Even if we have obtained precertification, or if the sleep study is determined to be "authorized" or "covered", you may still be responsible for paying your co-pay, any non-covered portions, and any deductible as determined by your insurance.

PREREGISTRATION

Preregistration (by phone): please call **978.287.3062** between 7:30am-8:00pm Monday-Friday.

WHAT TO BRING TO THE SLEEP TESTING CENTER:

- Comfortable clothing/pajamas
- Small snacks (Please bring a cooler if necessary, for any food, drinks, or snacks that need refrigeration)
- Personal toiletry items (toothpaste, soap, etc.) If desired
- Anything that will make you feel comfortable on the evening of your study (e.g. pillow, book, magazine, etc.). TVs are provided in each patient room.
- Take/bring all regular and emergency medications that you need for the evening and following morning as prescribed, unless otherwise directed by your physician. Please bring a list of all current medications. **Please note: the sleep testing center technologists cannot provide/administer any medications.**

To take extra precaution due to COVID-19, any belongings left at the lab will be disposed of.

To avoid this, please be sure to take all belongings when you leave

DIRECTIONS TO SLEEP TESTING CENTER:

Please park on the Atrium side entrance and enter the building through the Emergency Room Entrance. A member of security staff will inform the sleep technologist of your arrival and direct you to the Sleep Lab.

You will be provided with hand sanitizer and a mask if you do not have one.

AFTER YOUR SLEEP TEST:

If you are excessively sleepy upon waking, please arrange for someone to either drop you off or pick you up outside the building. If you are being dropped off, please remain in the car until you receive instruction from the technologist that can be reached at the number listed in the directions. Visitors will NOT be allowed to enter the building.

OBTAINING YOUR TEST RESULTS:

Contact your referring physician for sleep study results. Study results will not be sent directly to patients.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. Do I have to go to sleep right away?

No, but the technologists will ask you to be in bed by 11pm to begin running the study. The study will conclude at 6am, unless otherwise directed by your referring physician.

2. Can I use the restroom?

Yes, it will be easy to disconnect from the wires to use the restroom.

3. Will someone be in the room with me?

No, you will have a private room. There will be a small camera so the technologists can see sleep positions.

Please Note: Technicians will be placing sensors on you that let them monitor your heart, limb movements, snoring, breathing, and brain waves throughout the night. The sensors used to monitor your brain waves are placed on your scalp with conductivity paste. This is not glue and can easily be washed out of your hair when you shower at home. Most of the other sensors are placed with hypoallergenic tape or with an EMG pads. All these sensors are important and will help your physician make the proper diagnosis.