



## **INFECTION CONTROL – PATIENT INFORMATION PACKET**

### **OUTLINE OF INFECTION CONTROL PROGRAM**

Lafayette General Endoscopy Center (LGEC) has established an aggressive Infection Control Program as a vital way to control and prevent the introduction of any type of infection into the facility from an outside source and also to prevent any patient, visitor or staff member from being exposed to an infectious source while within the facility. The LGEC Infection Control Policy was formulated using standards, information and guidelines published by the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, The Society of Gastrointestinal Nurses and Associates and The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Healthcare, which have been endorsed by every major medical association dealing with endoscopy and infection control. The Nurse Administrator of the facility is the appointed Infection Control Officer and has the responsibility for the initiation and management of the Infection Control activities at LGEC, including the training/inservicing of employees, staff and physicians, along with monitoring the compliance of the Infection Control policies with the oversight of the Medical Director. This document explains the processes to prevent the spread of infection from person to person. An additional document in this packet entitled “Ensuring the Safety of Your Endoscopic Procedure” outlines the processes that prevent patient exposure to infection from the equipment used for your procedure.

### **EXPECTATIONS FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILY**

We want all of our patients to understand the purpose and scope of the Infection Control Policy at LGEC for two reasons: 1) To assure patients and their families that we are committed to providing the highest quality endoscopy care and adhere to all guidelines for the prevention of contact with or spread of any infectious source within the facility; and 2) To inform patients and their families of the expectations that LGEC has for their assistance in our goal to stay “germ-free” at our facility.

The items listed below are standards in the Infection Control Program here at LGEC that our patients and their families will be expected to follow:

- Patients should call their physician’s office to cancel their procedure if they develop fever, cough, frequent sneezing, colored nasal drainage, symptoms of flu, draining or infected-appearing cuts, skin lesions or any other signs/symptoms of an infection close to or the day of your scheduled procedure. If you are on antibiotics for an infection when your procedure is scheduled, check with your physician’s office to see if you should reschedule. Reschedule your procedure

after you are back to normal. A sick patient exposes all other patients, employees, staff members and visitors to a potential infection.

- The person who comes to LGEC with the patient to take them home after their procedure should also be free of any signs or symptoms of infection like those listed above. A sick person in the lobby exposes everyone else in the area to a potential infection.

### **WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT LGEC**

When you enter the lobby of our facility, you will see a sign posted by the reception desk requesting that patients, family and visitors request a surgical mask to wear while in the facility if they are coughing or sneezing. Tissues, waste container and hand sanitizer are also located in this area and everyone in the waiting area is encouraged to utilize these items as needed. You may be asked to wear a mask if you are observed to be coughing or sneezing by staff. Again, the goal is to prevent the spread of germs to others.

When a patient enters the admit room, the nurse is required to assess them for signs or symptoms of any infectious process. If the completed Infection Control Checklist identifies a potential infection, the patient will remain in the admit room until they are evaluated by the physician. (A patient who is coughing or sneezing will be given a surgical mask to wear.) After evaluating the patient, the physician will determine whether or not the patient is a potential source of infection for others. If they are determined to be infectious, their procedure will be canceled and rescheduled when all symptoms are gone.

### **HANDWASHING**

All published studies and articles on infection control promote handwashing as the #1 way to prevent the spread of infection, especially in a healthcare setting. All employees and staff are given annual inservices on the importance of handwashing, and unannounced surveillance is conducted to monitor physician and employee compliance with the LGEC policy regarding handwashing. All of our patients will be asked by the admit nurse to sanitize their hands prior to entering the patient care area of the facility.

### **THANK YOU**

We thank you in advance for your cooperation in our efforts to have a germ-free environment. We want to make sure that no patient who comes to LGEC risks exposure to any type of infection while they are in our facility.