

COVID-19 Testing Guidelines for Inpatients at HUP (Updated 5/21/2020)

This is meant to guide the appropriate testing for COVID-19. We encourage stewardship of testing, to ensure that testing supplies remain available for effective diagnosis and care of our patients.

Clinical Scenario	COVID-19 Testing?
New signs/symptoms of acute viral respiratory infection (such as fever, cough, dyspnea, myalgias, unexplained GI symptoms, anosmia, ageusia, abnormal chest imaging)	Yes
Hypoxia or respiratory failure without alternative etiology	Yes
Noninvasive positive-pressure ventilation (NPPV)	Yes, if NPPV indication and COVID testing need documented by NIV team
Unable to obtain patient history in new admission or transfer (such as due to altered mental status ie stroke or trauma, intubated, critical illness)	Yes
Asymptomatic patients (OSH transfer, ED admissions, Direct admissions)	Yes (universal testing starting 5/18/2020 for HUP inpatients), if no prior negative test within 48 hours (can accept OSH or outside lab testing)
Patient with known COVID-19 exposure, including in-hospital exposure	No, if patient is asymptomatic, unless otherwise recommended by infection control. ¹ Yes, if subsequent new symptoms are compatible with COVID-19.
Prior COVID-19 test negative	Retesting at 24 hrs should be considered when there is high clinical suspicion for COVID-19. Please see HUP re-testing guidelines . ²
Known COVID-19 positive	No, unless needed for discharge facility placement or to remove from isolation / COVID unit: See Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions for Hospitalized COVID-19 document.
Special groups (Asymptomatic Patients)	
New organ transplant recipients	Yes, within 48 hrs prior to transplant
Transplant patient with organ rejection	Yes, within 48 hours prior to treatment for rejection
Prior to allo/auto SCT, leukemia/lymphoma chemotherapy as per onc risk stratification protocol, prior to CAR-T cell therapy	Yes (*per oncology guidelines)
Radiation oncology patient undergoing radiation therapy	Yes
Newborns born to COVID-19 infected mother	Yes, at 24 hrs. If negative, retest at 48 hrs.
Discharge to Good Shepherd Penn Partners (GSPP)	Yes, within 48 hrs of discharge
Discharge to facility requiring negative COVID-19 test prior to acceptance (such as skilled nursing, shelter, group home, dialysis center)	Yes, according to facility requirement
Enrolled in clinical trial in which criteria requires repeat in-house testing	Yes
Asymptomatic patients undergoing procedure that has been approved for pre-procedural testing	Yes, within 48 hours of procedure (of note, inpatients do NOT need repeat testing if tested already during admission and within 7 days of procedure)
For removal of isolation precautions / transfer out of COVID unit for inpatients	May be indicated, please see separate guideline: Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions for Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients

²Such patients should maintain COVID-rule out precautions, but do not require transfer to PUI units while awaiting repeat test results.

To order COVID-19 testing in EPIC:

Search for EPIC Test Name: COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2)

Select priority: For ER, OB, and emergency cases utilize STAT; all other instances utilize ROUTINE

Prompt Question 1: Symptomatic- yes / no

Prompt Question 2: Must select from Approved List of Services

As of 5/6/2020 -> you no longer need any approval for COVID-19 testing for inpatients (you do not need to call the testing approval pager, and do not need any manual golden ticket requisition)