



COVID-19

Patient Testing Guidelines

May 15, 2023

COVID Testing for Hospital Admission

Effective **Wednesday November 16, 2022**, COVID-19 testing is no longer required for all admissions.

Patients should be tested for COVID-19 when clinically indicated, and per provider judgement.

- Test patients with clinical concern (symptoms) of COVID.
- Providers may choose to test asymptomatic patients if knowing the COVID status will alter the treatment plan for that patient. For example, patients undergoing cardiac surgery will be tested prior to their procedure.
- For inpatients who report close contact with a known COVID+ person, test 1, 3, and 5 days after exposure (day of exposure is day 0). See [Precautions by COVID Status](#) for detailed precautions recommendations, including for immunocompromised patients and neonates with COVID + parents.
- Patients who have had COVID in the past 30 days do not require testing after close contact with a known COVID+ person if they remain asymptomatic.
- Infants born to COVID+ mothers do not require testing at 48 hours of age unless there is clinical concern for COVID.
- Mental Health and CTED Inpatients will continue to be tested for COVID on admission.
- Use of Respiratory Protection is strongly recommended during all aerosol generating procedures, regardless of the patient's COVID status.

Rationale for this change:

- A COVID-19 test result only reflects the patient's COVID status at one moment in time. A negative test on admission may offer false reassurance about the patient's COVID status for the remainder of the patient's admission.
- Knowing the COVID status of an asymptomatic patient rarely alters the treatment plan for that patient. If known the COVID status would alter the treatment plan, the provider may order COVID testing.

NOTES:

1. Definition of close contact COVID exposure: Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period