

## **Pre-Procedural COVID-19 Testing FAQs**

### **What patients are eligible for testing?**

Guidance on what patients are eligible for pre-procedural testing is available [here](#). Please note that not all patients undergoing a procedure or surgery will need to be tested for COVID-19.

### **When should a patient get tested for Covid-19?**

When testing is indicated, patients should complete testing within 2-3 days before the scheduled procedure. Completion of testing 2-3 days prior to surgery will ensure that results are available prior to the procedure. Rapid test capabilities are very limited due to supply chain constraints. Use of rapid tests for broad pre-procedural screening would likely exhaust our supply within days.

### **Who is responsible for ensuring that patients complete testing prior to their procedure?**

The ordering provider is responsible for ensuring that all appropriate pre-procedural tests, including COVID-19 tests are completed prior the procedure or surgery.

### **When can I expect the results to be available?**

There are currently several different test platforms being used to test patients for COVID-19 with different turn-around-times. As capacity allows, pre-surgical tests will be routed to a platform with approximately 12 hour turn-around **after** the specimen arrives in the lab. To ensure that results are available prior to surgery, it is recommended that patients needing testing have samples collected 2-3 days prior to their procedures. If patients are referred for testing less than 2 days before their procedure, results cannot be guaranteed to be available prior to surgery.

### **My patient is from out of town. Can I just order a rapid test on the day the patient is having their procedure?**

Unfortunately, rapid tests are not available to be performed at all locations across the system at this time due to supply constraints. The supply chain for rapid tests is very limited at this time. Resupply of critical test kits from vendors is sporadic. Due to these constraints, use of these limited resources are being prioritized for critically ill patients, transplant patients and other selected groups.

If a patient unable to utilize a BJC location for pre-procedural testing, patients should be referred for testing near their home, when possible. If testing is unable to be completed, the patient should be managed according to the [recommendations](#) for preprocedural testing and PPE use.

### **How can my patients receive COVID-19 testing?**

There are two options for completing COVID-19 testing.

1. Patient requires no other pre-procedural evaluation or other pre-procedural evaluation (eg. Labs, ECG) is completed >3 days in advance of surgery

Requests for testing may be sent using an Epic In-Basket Message to the appropriate pool. Full details may be found in the Epic Hip Tip, “COVID-19 Testing for Tier 2/3 Surgery/Procedure – Outpatients”

Last Updated: 5/8/2020

# HIP TIP

[Tip Sheet Category](#)

Ambulatory

Provider

## COVID-19 Testing for Tier 2/3 Surgery/Procedure - Outpatients

Patients currently in the outpatient setting needing surgery/procedures need to get tested for COVID-19 prior to their procedure. **This tip sheet outlines the steps to place an order for a COVID-19 test for such a patient at one of the Specimen Collection Sites listed below. If you want the test to be collected at one of the hospital-based Pre-Operative Testing or Lab locations, there is a different, hospital-based process to follow. Please do not follow this tip sheet and alter the selections as that will not lead to a timely collection of samples.**



Patients cannot be tested for COVID-19 earlier than 72 hours prior to their scheduled surgery/procedure.

2. Patient will be having pre-procedural evaluation within your hospital  $\leq$  3 days before the procedure

Send an outpatient lab order within Epic and follow prompts to have COVID testing done with the patient’s additional testing (e.g., bloodwork, EKG, imaging). The swab will need to be collected at your location.