



Memorandum

TO: Premier Health Providers, Management Forums [AMC, MVH, MVHN, MVHS, PPN, PSS, UVMC]
FROM: Mary Boosalis, President & CEO, Premier Health
DATE: May 8, 2020
RE: **Pre-Operative COVID-19 Testing Guidance | Ramp-Up of Services Continues**

As we continue to ramp up services consistent with the state of Ohio's guidance, we are pleased to announce that COVID-19 testing will be available next week for surgeries and procedures as part of the pre-operative process.

Pre-operative testing for COVID-19

Effective Monday, May 11, for elective surgeries and procedures scheduled on/after Thursday, May 14:

- Testing is required for:
 - All surgeries and procedures requiring anesthesia
 - This includes elective C-sections and inductions
- Testing is strongly recommended for all other procedures (at the discretion of the physician)

Please note: It is the physician's responsibility to ensure results are reviewed prior to the procedure.

This testing is being added to our pre-operative process to ensure the safety of both patients and staff.

Patients must receive the COVID-19 test 2 days – but no more than 3 days – prior to their procedure.

So, for example, for procedures scheduled for a Thursday, specimen collection using a swab should occur the Tuesday prior to the procedure. It is essential that patients self-isolate once they have been tested until they have their procedure. **Please see the flyer attached to this email that offers patients details on how they can schedule appointments.**

Personal protective equipment guidance

For patients for whom COVID-19 has been ruled out, standard personal protective equipment (PPE) protocols will be followed during the procedure.

For patients who have tested positive or are showing symptoms of COVID-19, the procedure should be delayed if possible. If surgery must proceed in cases in which the patient has symptoms of COVID-19 or has had a positive PCR test for COVID-19:

- Surgical PPE (including N95 masks or PAPR) must be utilized for every procedure.
- Surgery and anesthesia must mutually agree to move forward with the procedure.

For patients with previous positive SARS CoV 2 PCR and no symptoms:

- If more than 14 days have passed since test was initially positive **and** patient is asymptomatic, procedure may proceed in usual surgical PPE without need for additional testing.
- If less than 14 days **or** patient is symptomatic, consider postponement of procedure due to risk of complications.
- Currently, **isolated use of antibody serology (IgG) may not be used in place of PCR for determination of surgical risk of COVID-19.**

For patients who refuse to be tested:

- Surgery and anesthesia must mutually agree to move forward with the procedure.

Outpatient Process

- The physician or designee will order the test in Epic. If the physician/designee does not have access to Epic, a paper order can be given to the patient.
 - **Test Types (It is important to identify the test accurately to expedite results):**
 - SARS 2RNA CL Real Time RT PCR (for preop/elective and outpatient surgery/procedure)
 - Order is now live

Inpatient Process

- COVID-19 test specimen must be in the hospital lab by **12 noon the day before surgery** to ensure tests results are available.
- Patients who are tested pre-operatively will not be moved to the High-Risk Respiratory Unit (HRRU) unless they are exhibiting signs and symptoms or test positive.
 - **Test Types (It is important to identify the test accurately to expedite results):**
 - SARS COV 2 RNA REAL TIME RT PCR (Preop/Urgent and Add On Surgery/Procedures)
 - Order is now live

Based on the Governor's latest guidelines, Premier Health will add select health care services at many of our locations beginning on Monday, May 11.

Multidisciplinary teams from across the health system have worked diligently over the past few weeks to prepare for an anticipated increase in patient volume and to ensure that services can be resumed safely and responsibly. Hours for our operating rooms, cardiac catheterization labs and interventional radiology suites will be adjusted to accommodate these needs. Please see below for additional details:

- SLEEP STUDIES: pending guidance from the Ohio Department of Health since these services require overnight stays.
- CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE (CHF) CLINICS: Resumes full services May 11 at MVH, MVHN; and May 18 at AMC.
- PULMONARY FUNCTION TESTS: Resumes at all locations beginning May 11.
- DIAGNOSTIC CARDIOLOGY: Services are ramping up the week of May 11, including stress testing, echo (TTA), EKG, Holter, and Event Monitors.
- MEDICAL IMAGING: The following services are scheduled to begin on May 11: screening mammography, DXA, calcium scoring and Low dose CT lung screening. Self-scheduling will resume.