



PHG Update: April 22, 2021

Dear Valued Providers

We want to be a resource to our Premier Health Group Independent providers. Throughout this pandemic, we will provide clinical and operational updates as they become available to support the provider community.

In addition, we have created a resources page on the [PHG website](#).

Please feel free to contact us directly at (937) 499-7441 if you have any questions

Yours sincerely,

Matt

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Visitor Screening Discontinuation of Temperature Screening

Temperature screening will no longer be part of the entry procedures at Premier Health facilities. They will continue to utilize the screening questionnaire at entry points to recognize individuals at higher risk of being ill with COVID-19.

As part of the management of COVID-19, entry point screening procedures were initially recommended as part of the reopening plan in Ohio. The recommendation initially included question-based assessments for symptoms associated with COVID-19 as well as temperature screening for visitors. Various reports have raised concerns about the utility of temperature screening as part of COVID-19 screening in non-clinical situations. Many patients with COVID-19 do not, in fact, have an elevated temperature. Furthermore, variations in surface skin temperature from ambient air extremes can create additional inaccuracies that adversely impact temperature accuracy in our temperature screening tools.

The use of temperature screening is not a requirement by the Ohio Department of Health or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Travel points within the United States no longer use temperature assessments as a standard procedure for travelers within the continental US. Additionally, other health care entities, including some locally, have abandoned this practice.

Premier Health is evaluating changes in visitor screening procedures. Additional communication can be expected when these changes are finalized.



Workflow Improvements for Breast Cancer Pathology Labs

CompuNet Clinical Laboratories has established a 2.5 business-day turnaround goal for returning breast biopsy specimen results to providers with initial finding. Time to final report can vary if additional stains are requested by Pathologists:

- ER/PR: performed Monday through Friday
- HER2: performed Monday and Thursday

Specimen cycle:

- 1) Breast biopsy specimen is collected, 2) Specimen accessioned by Hospital Lab, 3) Specimen sent by courier to Histology Lab at Miami Valley Hospital, 4) Specimen processed and slides generated, 5) Slides sent to Pathologist for reading on site at Miami Valley Hospital, Atrium Medical Center, Upper Valley Medical Center 6) Additional stains ordered as indicated, 7) Report generated

Questions? Please contact:

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Screening COVID-19 Tests for Perioperative and Admitted Patients

Outpatient Perioperative Testing

COVID test only required in:

- Any patients undergoing open lung or airway procedures unless a positive test was obtained in the 90 days prior.
- Any unvaccinated patient undergoing procedures under general anesthesia unless a positive test was obtained in the 90 days prior.
- Any unvaccinated patient undergoing upper endoscopy unless a positive test was obtained in the 90 days prior.

For patients with a positive test, unless contraindicated due to need, recommend delay surgery for 7 weeks from onset of symptoms or test result, whichever is earliest.

Medical/Surgical Admission or Maternity (Previously Universal Testing)

COVID test is only required for the following patients:

- Patients admitted with respiratory or non-respiratory symptoms suspected to be secondary to ACTIVE COVID-19 infection unless a positive test was obtained in the 90 days prior.
- Patients being admitted to the inpatient Behavioral Health Unit unless there is documented proof of infection within 90 days or patient is fully vaccinated.

The COVID testing flier has been updated to reflect this guidance. [Click here to view.](#)

A COVID test is NOT Required for acute respiratory symptoms suspected to be due to COPD, asthma, or focal pneumonia in a fully vaccinated patient. Do not retest within 90 days of previous positive test unless the patient is immunosuppressed with a known new exposure or symptoms. Please note that, in medical cases that are not clear, providers can determine whether ordering a COVID-19 test is appropriate.