



PHG COVID-19 Update: July 23

Dear Valued Providers

We want to be a resource to our Premier Health Group Independent providers. As our health care system begins to stabilize, we will provide clinical and operational updates as they become available to continue and provide support to providers.

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

Please feel free to contact us directly at **(937) 499-7441** with any questions you might have or if you would like to speak with our Medical Director, Scott Swabb, DO.

Yours sincerely,

Renee George
President, Premier Health Group

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Changes to Time Frame for Pre-admission COVID Testing

We know there has been delay in receiving COVID test results prior to surgery. Due to this, we have extended the time frame prior to surgery for patient testing. Please instruct patients to do the following:

- Time frame prior to surgery for **dry** swab orders: 72-96 hours
- Time frame prior to surgery for **wet** swab: Less than 72 hours
 - Wet swabs are only available at UD Arena; hours are Monday - Friday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Tests 72-96 hours out will still be performed at a Premier Health Urgent Care.

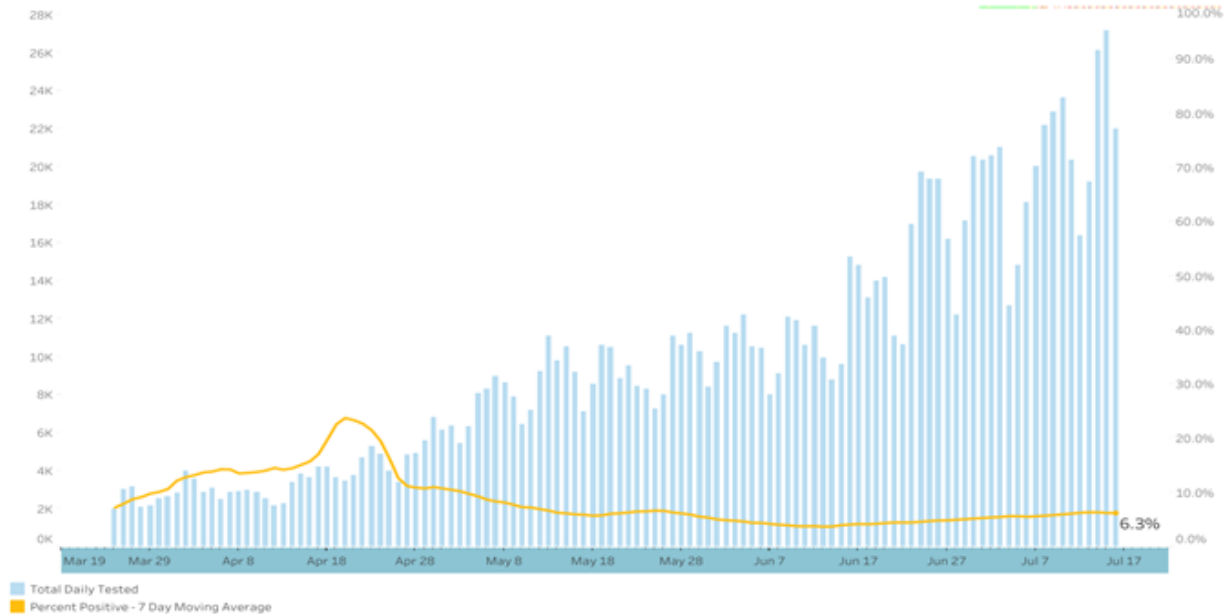
COVID-19 Clinical Update

Here is a clinical update on COVID-19 with the most recent clinical data from Ohio and Premier Health.

Testing:

- Ohio's positivity is currently 6.3% out of more than 20,000 tests per day. This rate has been as low as 3.7 in mid-June but has risen across the state with new infections.
- Premier Health testing results from CompuNet indicate a similar positivity rate between 5% and 6.5% and presently completing more than 1,200 tests per day.
- Universal testing for all hospitalized patients has been routine at every Premier Health hospital and for all elective cases.
- Additional testing capabilities are expected to come online in August.

COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests Performed and Percent Positivity



Cases:

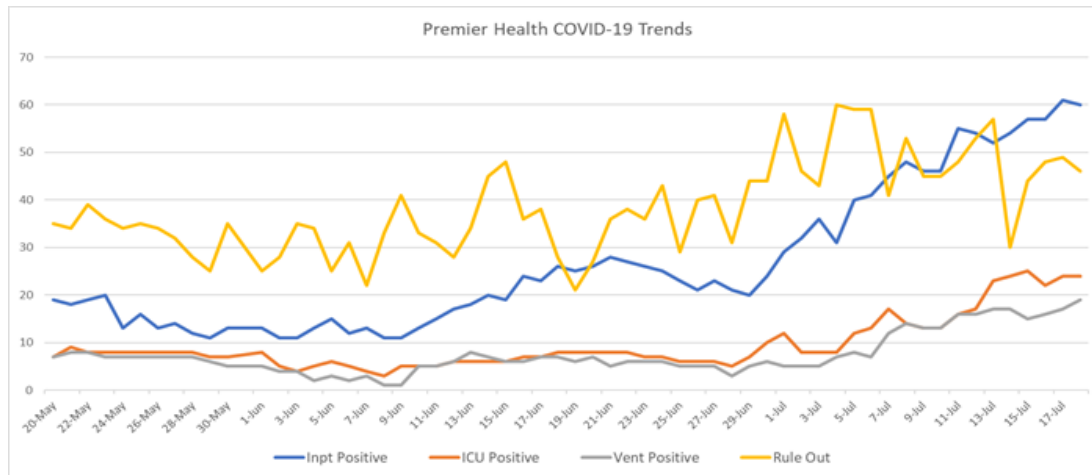
- More than 3.5 million cases across the United States, just over 1% of our total population.
- More than 69,000 confirmed cases in Ohio, which is now averaging more than 1,200 new daily cases. About 0.6% of all Ohioans have been infected.
- The median age of infections in Ohio continues to drop - now down to 43 - indicating more individuals with COVID-19 who are younger.
- Hospitalizations have increased but not at the same rate as infections.
- Hospital capacity has NOT been a limiting factor across the state as the majority of patients who are in the hospital are not admitted for COVID-19 related conditions.

Therapeutics:

- We continue to offer Convalescent Plasma therapy to COVID-19 patients although our supply has decreased with recent infections and decreased donations. Campaigns are in progress to increase recruitment for donations.
- Remdesivir supply has been very limited due to increased use locally, as well as demand in hardest hit areas of the US.
- Our teams have continued using Tocilizumab when indicated.
- A new trial monoclonal antibody therapy with Regeneron is also now available as part of a placebo-controlled trial.

Our Present Trends for COVID-19 Patients:

- We have treated a total of 688 COVID-19 patients at Premier Health hospitals.
- The number of patients admitted to the hospital for COVID-19 has increased gradually since the latter part of June while the number of ICU patients with COVID-19 increased significantly beginning the 4th of July weekend at a slightly lower rate.
- COVID-19 patients presently account for only 7% of our total census of hospitalized patients.



PPE:

- Our supply of **personal protective equipment (PPE)** has improved with some stability, but possibilities for future shortages exist as raw materials remain limited in availability. Our sourcing department has done a magnificent job in ensuring we have not run out of any necessary equipment.
- The use of N95 respirators transitions to daily wear. Supply improved but remains a concern.
- Additional PAPR units will become available to augment our accessibility and replace aging units.

NP Swab Collection:

- When performing a Nasopharyngeal (NP) Swab for COVID-19, the proper PPE to wear includes *Gloves, Gown, Mask with Eye Protection*.
- For specimens collected by hospital staff:
 - o **WET SWAB** - Indicated **ONLY** for: Labor and delivery admissions, preop for urgent or add-on surgical/procedure patients
 - o **DRY SWAB** - Indicated for: Diagnostic test in symptomatic patients, Discharge placement (congregate living), ED discharges, Healthcare personnel/first responders, Screening for admitted patient, Screening of all direct or transfer admissions



Physician Perceptions of Value-Based Healthcare Survey

You are being invited to participate in a web-based survey **emailed to you on July 20, 2020** that is assessing physician perceptions of fee for service vs. value-based health care, participation is voluntary. The survey should only take 10 minutes to complete. No identifying information is collected; therefore, your confidentiality is protected. There is a need to fully understand the perception of value-based healthcare among physicians to plan for the future.

Thank you for considering participation in this important performance improvement assessment.