

Subject: COVID-19 Laboratory Testing



UC Health <UCHealth@uchealth.com>
to UC Health

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TO: UC Health Clinicians and Residents

FROM: Dani Zander, MD
Chief Pathology, and Laboratory Medicine

George Smulian, MD
Medical Director, Infection Prevention

DATE: Tuesday, March 10, 2020

RE: Laboratory Testing for COVID-19

The following information applies to all UC Health facilities, including UC Medical Center, West Chester Hospital, Daniel Drake Center for Post-Acute Care and our ambulatory locations.

Laboratory testing for COVID-19 is now available to all UC Health patients as a send-out test from the UCMC Clinical Laboratory. This test can be ordered now as a miscellaneous test (AREF) in Epic; a specific Epic test code is under construction and should be available within the next week.

The preferred sample type is a nasopharyngeal swab or oropharyngeal swab submitted in viral media. Other alternative samples include a nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal wash or aspirate or bronchoalveolar lavage. Samples can be accepted from inpatients and outpatients and should be sent to the UCMC Clinical Laboratory via the usual transport and courier services. **Please notify Infection Prevention at 584-WASH (9274) prior to collecting the sample.** If more than 15 minutes is expected to elapse between sample collection and courier pickup, it is recommended that the sample should be refrigerated if possible.

Routine outpatient samples will be sent to LabCorp with an expected turnaround time (TAT) for test results of 3-4 days. For the sample to be sent out on the day it is received by the UCMC Clinical Laboratory, it must be received in the laboratory by 4:00pm, Monday-Friday, or by 2:00pm on Saturday. Samples received after these cutoff times will be sent to LabCorp on the next workday.

Samples from inpatients or from outpatients needing more rapid testing will be sent to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), with an expected TAT of 1-2 days. Weekend testing may be available at ODH by special arrangement. **Details should be discussed with Infection Prevention.**

Positive test results will be called by LabCorp and ODH to the UCMC Clinical Laboratory's Customer Service, who will then contact the ordering physician and Infection Prevention. All (positive and negative) test results will be reported in Epic. Efforts are underway to bring COVID-19 testing in-house in the UCMC Microbiology Lab, and the construction of a timeline for establishment of in-house testing is in