

SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19) Testing: Executive Summary

Date: June 17, 2020

Resumption of elective surgeries and procedures is essential to providing high-quality patient care and is necessary to restarting system operations at UMass Memorial Health Care. Given improved access to testing supplies and reagents, the system can now offer preprocedural testing to all patients. Ordering, reporting, and interpreting these test results present a unique challenge to all providers and are the first steps to limiting patient and staff exposure to COVID-19.

Aided by the guidance of our hospitals' infectious disease experts and the input of surgical and procedural departmental chairs, our institutions have compiled a COVID-19 preprocedural and presurgical testing guideline entitled "SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19) Testing: Recommendations for Surgeries and Procedures". This will assist providers in understanding procedural risk and selecting appropriate personal protective equipment based upon testing results.

A second resource entitled "SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19) Testing: Recommendations for Surgical and Procedural Workflow" also has been compiled to guide departments and divisions as they incorporate preprocedural testing into their daily operations. It reflects the pooled experience of our preprocedural testing pilot as well as the expertise of several of our EPIC development groups at UMass Memorial.

All documents are available on the HUB, but before reading these in detail, several key points are worth highlighting:

- All preoperative and preprocedural patients will undergo COVID-19 ambulatory testing 48 hours prior to their assigned case date.
- All preoperative and preprocedural patients will undergo COVID-19 symptom and exposure screening. When coupled with the results of preoperative testing, this will help guide appropriate selection of personal protective equipment and appropriate location for postop admission.
- Surgeons' and proceduralists' offices will incorporate COVID-19 testing into their preprocedural workflow and be primarily responsible for ensuring testing prior is complete prior to surgery.
- Initial, conservative recommendations have been based upon current understanding of the disease and currently available laboratory testing. Updates will follow in the future as this understanding matures.