

Dear Duke Health Patient:

You are receiving this letter because you have refused required testing for the COVID-19 virus prior to an elective procedure at a Duke Health facility.

Not everyone infected with COVID-19 has obvious symptoms of illness. Testing is the best way for your Duke Health provider to determine whether you are infected. This not only helps us take the best care of you, but also aids in determining whether you may pose a risk to others, including your loved ones and our staff, visitors, and other patients.

If we determine that you are infected, your elective procedure would be delayed until you are no longer infectious and have demonstrated recovery from COVID-19. In the meantime, we would help you to manage any COVID-19 symptoms. Your loved ones and others you identify would also be provided information to assess and address their infection risks.

Given the serious risks posed to you and others by COVID-19, we require testing before we can offer to perform your procedure. If you continue to refuse testing, your health care team will discuss available treatment alternatives, other than your procedure, for you to consider.

Please know that required testing is just one part of Duke Health's efforts to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and take care of you, your loved ones, and others who choose Duke Health. Your health care team can answer any additional questions that you may have about COVID-19 testing and treatment as well as your procedure. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [website](#) is also an excellent resource for the latest information on COVID-19.

We thank you for choosing Duke Health during this extraordinary time.