

Duke University Hospital COVID-19 Testing Guidance

The table below outlines 12 categories of patients and the respective approved tests at Duke University Hospital. Guidelines at DRH and DRAH vary based on workflows and testing capabilities; please work with the respective entity CMO for appropriate guidance.

Test Definitions

1. **Point of Care Testing (POCT):** This test is similar to other POCT performed across the health system and requires that a specific device is physically located in the clinical environment. Turnaround Times (TAT) for positive tests is approximately 5 minutes; TAT for negative tests is 15 minutes. POCT units are limited and therefore have been deployed to areas where case volumes indicate regular use.
2. **Inpatient Testing:** This in-house molecular diagnostic test currently has a median TAT of 5 hours from test order to test result.
3. **Outpatient Testing:** This in-house molecular diagnostic test has a targeted TAT of 12-24 hours.
4. **IP/Administrative Test:** This in-house molecular diagnostic test has a targeted TAT of 12-24 hours. It is not linked to a “Rule out COVID” infection status and is used when indicated for screening asymptomatic patients or removing isolation precautions in a patient who has recovered.

If emergent care is required prior to receiving test results, use [appropriate PPE](#).

Category	Examples	Approved COVID Test
Symptomatic* inpatients hospitalized		Inpatient Testing
Asymptomatic inpatients who reside in congregate facilities ^f	SNFs, group homes, prisons	Inpatient Testing
All other asymptomatic inpatients		No testing indicated unless required for SNF placement (use IP Administrative Orderable)
Obstetrics Inpatients		POCT
Symptomatic* Outpatients	Respiratory Care Centers; dialysis patients; congregate living facilities ^f	Likely admission: POCT Unlikely admission: Outpatient Testing
Asymptomatic Outpatients		No testing indicated

Category	Examples	Approved COVID Test
Perioperative	Level 1-4 OR and IR cases	POCT as described in the perioperative protocol
Pre-procedural	EGD, TEE, Cardioversion, Urgent nasal endoscopy (full list here)	Pre-scheduled Local Outpatient: Outpatient testing Urgent/Traveling Outpatient: POCT at Drive-up Inpatient: Inpatient Testing
Behavioral Health, Asymptomatic and Symptomatic	Inpatient or ER Behavioral Health Units	ED: POCT Inpatient: Inpatient Testing
Immunocompromised, Symptomatic	Solid organ transplant, immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapy, immunodeficiency syndromes, pre-term infants	ED: POCT Inpatient: Inpatient Testing Outpatient: Outpatient Testing
Immunocompromised, Asymptomatic	Solid organ transplant, immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapy, immunodeficiency syndromes, pre-term infants	Refer to recommendations for testing asymptomatic transplant patients Pre-term infants, other cancer chemotherapy, immunodeficiency syndromes: Inpatient Testing
Non-verbal Patients in Whom No Reliable History Can Be Obtained Regardless of Symptoms	Acute stroke patients	ED: POCT Inpatient: Inpatient Testing

*Symptomatic Patients: Fever, upper/lower respiratory symptoms, pulmonary infiltrates

£ Congregate facilities include skilled nursing facilities, group homes, prisons, etc.