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| UVA Health | COVID-19 Planning Materials | |
| Document Title | Asymptotic Pre-procedural COVID-19 Testing Guiding Principles (Main OR and OPSC) |
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| Information below reflects the best information available as of the date published.  In a rapidly evolving field, clinical judgment should guide patient care. | |

**UVA Asymptomatic Pre-procedural Covid Testing Guiding Principles**

Clinical decision-making regarding the need for an asymptotic pre-procedural Covid test will occur by the attending physician (or designee) caring for the patient, with discussion and input from the patient or guardian.

Attending Physicians (or designees) should evaluate the need for Asymptomatic Pre-Procedural Covid testing based on the patient’s medical history and the type of surgery/procedure scheduled.

**Patients already scheduled for Asymptomatic Pre-Procedural Covid Testing:**

Attending physicians (or designees) will review all patients scheduled for surgery to identify those who will need to get an Asymptomatic Pre-Procedure Covid testing prior to their surgery/procedure.

For patients who no longer need testing, and are scheduled at UVa or an alternative location:

* Physicians (or designees) will discontinue the Asymptomatic Pre-Procedure Covid testing order
* Surgical schedulers (or designee) will call the patients to inform them of this change and then:
  + Cancel the patient if they are on the UVA PREPROC ASYMTM TC schedule
  + Inform the patient to cancel their appointment if testing at an alternative location

Physicians and Schedulers can use a new EPIC report to view all the surgical/procedures that are currently posted. This will help facilitate reviewing patients who no longer need their Asymptotic Pre-procedural Covid testing. EPIC tipsheet attached: **EPIC Data Pull Procedure Report**

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**Clinic Pre-Surgery/Procedure Visit:**

If a patient **is referred** for Asymptomatic Pre-Procedure Covid testing:

* The potential risks of anesthesia and any negative outcomes related to post-procedural recovery should be reviewed and discussed by the primary team with patient/guardian and documented in EMR via progress note.
* The patient/guardian must agree to complete the testing. The physician (or designee) will enter a PCR Covid test order into the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) during the Ambulatory pre-procedural clinic visit, or when a case request is entered.

\*\* (If patient had a positive PCR Covid test within the previous 120 days, there is no need for another test)

* + If the patient does not agree to Asymptomatic Pre-Procedure Covid testing, then the physician will determine if the surgical/procedure will proceed.

Physicians (or designees) can contact the PETC Anesthesiology Attending via email (CL PETC Anesthesia Provider) if there are questions in regards to a patient’s previous Covid status and the potential need to delay a surgery/procedure.

**Options for Patient referred for Asymptomatic Pre-Procedural Covid Testing:**

It is the responsibility of the surgery/procedure team to enter the Asymptotic Pre-procedural Covid test into EPIC. Without this order, the patient will not be able to get this testing completed prior to their surgery/procedure. [Pre-Procedure Covid Referral and Lab Protocol Order](https://emergency.healthsystem.virginia.edu/in-patient-plans/pre-procedure-covid-19-referral-and-lab-protocol-order/)

Patients should then be scheduled for their Asymptomatic Pre-Procedural Covid test. Epic Tipsheet attached: **Scheduling Pre-Procedure Covid Testing**



Surgery/Procedure teams will work with patient/guardian to determine the most appropriate location for testing.

Patients can be referred for testing at UVa: scheduling department UVA PREPROC ASYMTM TC-

* The patients must be 13 years and older, and can perform a self-collected nasal swab
* Patients 12 years and under or who cannot perform a self-collected nasal swab test should be offered a testing option through pediatrics in the Battle Building or at one of these testing sites (see attachment).



If the patient decides to get their Asymptomatic Pre-procedural Covid test at an alternative location:

* An order for external testing must be entered by the surgery/procedure team. Type of test: **COVID PCR**.
* The patient will be responsible for communicating a positive test result to their surgery/procedure team.
* The patient will need to bring a copy of their negative PCR test results on the Day of Surgery/Procedure

If you have questions or need to connect with the testing center regarding a patient, please reach out to 434-982-6843 to speak with staff.

**Reviewing Asymptomatic Pre-Procedural Covid test results prior to surgery date:**

Results will be available to the surgery/procedure team via Epic.

**The ordering LIP is responsible for reporting results back to the patient in a timely manner.**

* Both positive and negative Covid lab results are released into MyChart as soon as reported in EPIC.
* Both positive and negative results are being released into the ordering LIP’s InBasket in EPIC.
* Use the LIP Tipsheet for how to communicate Covid lab results and next steps; see [LIP Guidance](https://emergency.healthsystem.virginia.edu/laboratory/lip-guidance-communicating-covid-19-lab-results-to-patients)

Or [RN Guidance](https://emergency.healthsystem.virginia.edu/laboratory/communicating-covid-19-lab-results-to-patients-sop)

\*The results will be reported to the health department and the patient may be contacted by a public health staff.

\*The surgery/procedure team can contact the Pre-Anesthesia Evaluation and Testing Center to consult with an anesthesiologist in regard to the re-scheduling a patient based on Covid history.

**Patient becomes Symptomatic prior to their Surgery/Procedure date:**

* Patient/Guardian should contact the surgery/procedure clinic to inform them that they have current symptoms.
* Physicians (or designee) should instruct the patient to contact their PCP or other healthcare provider with any follow-up concerns.
* The surgeon will determine if surgery/procedure will be delayed or canceled

**Day of Surgery Asymptomatic Covid testing for Admitted Patients:**

Patients who will **occupy an inpatient bed following a surgery/procedure** will receive an Asymptomatic Covid Admission test while in the Operating Room regardless of the previous asymptotic Pre-Procedural Covid testing results or vaccination status. The only exception would be those patients who have had a documented positive Covid PCR test within the last 120 days.

**Asymptomatic Pre-Procedural Covid Testing: FAQs**

***What if a patient who is referred for testing cannot get a PCR test within seven days of their surgery or their test results are not available at the time of the scheduled procedure?***  
Patients who have been referred for an Asymptomatic Pre-Procedure Covid test who cannot get a PCR test within seven days prior to their surgery should contact their physician (or designee). The physician (or designee) might consider a rapid antigen test on the day of surgery. As the antigen test is less sensitive and has low throughput this should be the method **only when PCR testing in advance could not be established**.

***Does a history of a previous Covid infection, or positive home test negate the need for a Covid PCR test?***

An individual with a history of Covid infection in the last 120 days may test positive on a pre-procedural test or admission test. In most cases, patients who test positive by PCR will be instructed to complete a period of isolation (regardless of past home testing), because most home antigen testing is not officially documented in or considered part of the official medical record by public health authorities. A positive PCR Covid test may impact procedural timing and/or isolation precautions used during procedures and hospital admission.

***Will admission testing continue for hospitalized patients?***

Patients admitted to UVA Medical Center will continue to undergo testing for Covid if they have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 120 days.

***How will the Surgery Clinical Team be notified of Covid test results?***  
As with other tests, results from UVA tests are shared with both the Encounter Provider and the Authorizing Provider in their InBasket, and in the medical record. For asymptomatic pre-procedural Covid tests performed at the UVa Pre-Procedural Asymptomatic Testing location, the surgeon will be the Encounter Provider.

Additionally, Surgical Care Coordinators should check the patient chart to see if results are reported at least 1 day before the procedure is scheduled.  Finally, if the result is positive, the Covid+ Banner will populate the patient’s chart.

***What are acceptable forms of documentation for Covid test results?***

The following are acceptable forms of documentation: Results in Epic, Epic CareEverywhere result from OSH and Hardcopy from lab. A picture of a lab result on a smartphone is **not acceptable.**

Results may be faxed directly to Lab DE at 434-245-2065 for entry into the EMR.

***Does evidence of a Covid vaccine negate the need for a pre-procedural test?***

Regardless of vaccination status a patient can be referred for a pre-procedural test. Also regardless of vaccine status all patients who will occupy an inpatient bed following a surgery/procedure will receive an Asymptomatic Covid admission test.

***Does a history of a previously lab-confirmed Covid infection negate the need for an Asymptomatic Covid admission test?***

Regardless of previous Covid infections, a patient can be referred for a pre-procedural test. Also regardless of previous Covid infections patients who will occupy an inpatient bed following a surgery/procedure will receive an Asymptomatic Covid admission test.

The only exception would be those patients who have had a documented positive Covid PCR test within the last 120 days.

**Safety** **Note:** As a reminder, testing does not eliminate the risk of exposure.  It is essential for all providers and members of the healthcare team to practice proper PPE use. No test is able to provide the level of protection that diligent PPE use does. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the safe, expert care of our patients.