

## COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Outbreak: Testing Resources

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March 13, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

In order to provide updates on the evolving response and best practices in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic, AHP will be delivering brief, critical updates on an ongoing basis addressing important highlights and frequently asked questions.

Today's update includes instructions for referral to UR Medicine Urgent Care for coronavirus testing as well as updated information about testing within your practice. **Please note that at present we continue to recommend that you recommend to patients who do not meet testing criteria and who are not acutely ill that they remain home and quarantine in place.**

Regarding PPE, practices completing our survey should have been contacted by the Monroe County health department. We continue to investigate alternative options for PPE supplies.

### For testing via UR Medicine Urgent Care

UR Medicine Urgent Care locations (listed [here](#)) are now able to evaluate and screen patients **who meet CDC criteria for screening**. That criteria remains:

- Febrile patients with influenza-like illness or febrile lower respiratory infection
- **AND** who have either 1) had contact with a suspected or lab-confirmed COVID-19 patient AND/OR 2) have traveled to an affected geographic area within 14 days of symptom onset
- **OR** any healthcare worker with flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) regardless of travel or suspected contact

At present, due to limited supplies of testing material, referral of asymptomatic patients or minimally symptomatic patients to a UR Medicine Urgent Care location is strongly discouraged.

If you are referring a patient meeting the criteria above to a UR Medicine Urgent Care location, **call ahead** to that location to let them know. You should also advise patients that if they are tested for coronavirus, they will be subject to health department-enforced involuntary quarantine (which includes daily visitation from the health department) for 14 days or until the test returns negative. Patients referred to UR Medicine Urgent Care will be evaluated, and if meeting criteria, will be tested. Providers can expect that UR Medicine Urgent Care's consult report will be available in ePartner in real time.

As of today, tests are still being sent out to reference labs, and results will take about three to four days. It is anticipated that UR Medicine Lab will be able to result tests onsite by early next week, at which time turnaround times should be significantly shorter. Testing results will be populated in ePartner within a timeframe dependent on whether the test was sent out or performed onsite at UR Medicine Lab.

### For testing within your practice

Just as for referral to Urgent Care, testing of patients within your practice is discouraged currently

for asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic patients: those patients should be advised to remain at home and contact you if their condition changes.

**As always, if the patient is acutely ill (labored breathing, hypoxic, etc), he/she should be sent to the ED, but be sure to notify the ED first that a symptomatic patient is coming. DO NOT send patients to the ED for testing unless they are acutely ill and warrant the ED level of care.**

To test patients in your office:

- Room patients (preferably with door closed) and request that the patient wear a mask. Alternatively, if your practice circumstances allow and you have appropriate PPE, consider performing the test in the parking lot with the patient seated in their car.
- Staff interacting with these patients must wear appropriate personal protective equipment:
  - Standard procedure masks (which provide excellent droplet protection) gowns and gloves are recommended for initial evaluation and collection of NP and OP swabs.
  - N95 masks should be reserved for situations in which patients under evaluation for COVID-19 are undergoing aerosol-generating procedures (intubation, extubation, bronchoscopy, and critical care management).
- Obtain 1 nasopharyngeal (NP) swab specimen & 1 oropharyngeal (OP/throat) swab specimen (see detailed procedure [here](#))
- Send specimen for testing to UR Medicine Lab.
- Contact the Monroe County health department to inform them that you have a patient who was swabbed and who should be considered a Person Under Investigation (PUI)
  - Email [mchealth@monroecounty.gov](mailto:mchealth@monroecounty.gov); or
  - Call 585-753-5555
- Inform your patient that he/she is now a PUI and that he/she needs to return home where he/she will be subject to health department-enforced involuntary quarantine (which includes daily visitation from the health department) for 14 days or until the test returns negative. Share [these instructions](#) for home isolation.

As stated above, results will currently take about three to four days. Once UR Medicine Lab is resulting onsite (expected early next week), turnaround times should be significantly shorter. Testing results will be populated in ePartner within a timeframe dependent on whether the test was sent out or performed onsite at UR Medicine Lab.

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We continue to partner with Dr. Mendoza and County Health Department officials on preparedness and response protocols and will convey information as it becomes available.

Thank you for your continued collaboration in this important public health endeavor. All the best,

**J. Chad Teeters, MD**  
Executive Medical Director, AHP



#### Resource Links

Monroe County Health Department  
<https://www2.monroecounty.gov/health-coronavirus>

CDC Coronavirus Site

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

New York Department of Health Coronavirus site:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

Archive of AHP Covid-19 Updates

<https://ahpnetwork.com/category/news/covid-19/>

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