

CLIA-Waived, Office-Based COVID PCR Testing Options

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November 5, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

In recent days there has been renewed discussion about office-based COVID PCR testing. There are now two alternatives on the market which are qualitative, real-time automated PCR systems which can detect SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), Influenza and RSV in a single swab. These two systems are the Cepheid Xpert® Xpress system and the cobas® Liat® PCR System from Roche. After consulting with our colleagues within UR Infection Prevention, we can report that these two specific systems **ARE** acceptable equivalents to lab-based PCR testing.

It is our understanding that some community practices do have one of these systems in place already, and many others have expressed interest or potentially even placed orders for one of these two systems. We have reached out to both companies to seek more information and learn more about cost of the system, availability for shipment and allocation of reagent/test kits for processing. As of yet we have not received information back but will pass along information as we receive it.

For more information about each system, visit the websites below:

- Cepheid: <https://www.cepheid.com/coronavirus>
- Roche: <https://diagnostics.roche.com/us/en/products/systems/cobas-liat-system.html>

Please note that most payers will reimburse for symptomatic testing only. Asymptomatic testing, such as testing performed to meet travel guidelines or to satisfy requirements for college students returning to campus, will likely be subject to 100% patient responsibility.



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COVID-19 Resource Links

[Golisano Children's Hospital Coronavirus Information for Families](#)

Project Teach: Seven Ways to Support Kids and Teens Through the Coronavirus Pandemic, in **[English](#)** and **[Spanish](#)**

[American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Site](#)

[Monroe County Health Department](#)

[CDC Coronavirus Site](#)

[New York Department of Health Coronavirus site](#)

COVID-19 Online Databases

- **[Greater Rochester Area COVID-19 Tracker](#)**
- **[Monroe County COVID-19 Dashboard](#)**
- **[NYSDOH COVID-19 Tracker](#)**
- **[NYS Nursing Home Fatalities](#)**
- **[CDC Coronavirus Interactive](#)**
- **[Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Dashboard](#)**

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