

**Interim COVID-19 Testing Guidelines for Patients Being Admitted at NYP**  
**April 4, 2020 (replaces guidelines published 3/23/20)**

Due to increasing community transmission of COVID-19, improved availability of sample collection kits, and enhanced testing capacity, effective today, **ALL patients being admitted to the hospital will be tested for COVID-19.** This change will allow identification of patients who may be asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic and may help in preventing transmission to other patients and healthcare personnel.

- Upon arrival, all patients should be given a surgical mask. See *Interim Guidelines for Surgical Mask Use at NYP by Patients, Visitors, and Healthcare Personnel (April 4, 2020)*
- All patients should be **SCREENED FOR ANY SYMPTOMS CONSISTENT WITH COVID-19 ON ARRIVAL** and **AT LEAST DAILY:** subjective or measured fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, myalgias, or diarrhea.
- Patients **WITH** any symptom of COVID-19 should be managed as “*suspected COVID-19*” as described in the table below.
- Patients **WITHOUT** any symptoms of COVID-19 should be managed as “*low suspicion for COVID-19*” as described in the table and should be tested initially, and again if symptoms subsequently develop.

Risk Category	Patient Symptoms (ANY)	Test Order	PPE Requirements for Staff While Obtaining Swab	PPE Requirements for Staff While Awaiting Result	PPE Requirements Based on COVID-19 Test Results	
					COVID-19 Negative	COVID-19 Positive/ Indeterminate
<b>Suspected COVID-19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Cough</li> <li>• Shortness of breath</li> <li>• Sore throat</li> <li>• Myalgias</li> <li>• Diarrhea</li> </ul>	“SARS-CoV-2 PCR”	<b>Contact + Droplet Precautions</b>  (Gown, gloves, surgical mask, and eye protection)	<b>Contact + Droplet Precautions</b>  (Gown, gloves, surgical mask, and eye protection)  <b>(+ N95 for aerosol-generating procedures)</b>	Based on clinical suspicion*	<b>Contact + Droplet Precautions</b>  (Gown, gloves, surgical mask, and eye protection)  <b>(+ N95 for aerosol-generating procedures)</b>
<b>Low suspicion for COVID-19</b>	No symptoms	“SARS-CoV-2 PCR”	<b>Surgical Mask + Eye protection + Gloves</b>	<b>Universal Surgical Mask</b>  (If an invasive procedure that may generate aerosols must occur prior to the availability of the SARS-CoV-2 test result, use Contact + Droplet + N95)	<b>Universal Surgical Mask</b>  Standard precautions**	<b>Contact + Droplet Precautions</b>  (Gown, gloves, surgical mask, and eye protection)  <b>(+ N95 for aerosol-generating procedures)</b>

\*When the SARS-CoV-2 test result is negative but clinical suspicion for COVID-19 remains (e.g., compatible illness with no other explanation), isolation precautions should be continued and repeat testing in 24-48 hours should be considered. Infectious Disease consultation should also be considered.

\*\*If patient subsequently develops symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, manage as a case of “suspected COVID-19” (e.g., institute contact and droplet precautions and retest for SARS-CoV-2).

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