

Clinicians: COVID-19 testing guidance for Cleveland Clinic Ohio locations

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Update as of March 13, 8:00 p.m.

Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals are working together and have launched on-site testing for COVID-19.

As a Cleveland Clinic provider, here is what you need to know:

For Cleveland Clinic, test results will be available within a day.


Outpatient testing

Epic ordering for COVID-19 is available for outpatient providers as of Friday, March 13, 2020.

Because of the presence of community spread of COVID-19, patients with flu-like illness (fever, myalgias, cough or difficulty breathing), will be tested for influenza, RSV and COVID-19. Influenza and RSV will be run first, and negative tests will automatically be tested for COVID-19. High-risk exposures for COVID-19 will no longer be required for testing.

Outpatient testing for flu-like illness must be performed with the following personal protective equipment (PPE) in all instances: **surgical mask, eye protection, gown and gloves. Any site that does not have the required PPE cannot test for influenza-like illness** and must refer the patient to the designated COVID-19 testing site.

The designated COVID-19 testing site will be available at the basement level of the Walker Garage on main campus (10524 Euclid Ave., Cleveland) Saturday, March 14, 2020, beginning at 11 a.m. Testing hours will be from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., 7 days a week. Patients should be directed to enter the basement ramp off of East 105th St.

- **A Cleveland Clinic provider's order will be required for COVID-19 testing in all circumstances.**
- **A single nasopharyngeal swab** will be needed to run all three tests. Regional labs that run the influenza/RSV will send the specimen to the main campus for COVID-19 testing, if negative.
- **Healthcare employees without symptoms** who had an exposure to a known COVID-19 infected patient should contact Occupational Health at 216.445.8246 .

Patients at home with influenza-like symptoms should be directed to call their primary care provider or use Cleveland Clinic Express Care on-line (virtual visit) for further advice on testing or in-person evaluation.

- Do not refer patients to the ED for testing unless their clinical presentation warrants ED evaluation.
- If the patient warrants ED referral, **the provider must refer the patient to the nearest ED and call to discuss the case with a provider in the ED before the patient arrives so that they can be received in a safe manner.**

Please note: No samples will be obtained in ambulatory sites other than the designated testing sites. Information about additional testing sites will be shared as they come on line.

Patients who receive testing should be educated on need for isolation (avoid close contact with other individuals,

hand hygiene, cough etiquette) pending testing results.

- If a test for COVID-19 is positive, Infection Prevention will automatically be made aware, who will contact public health. Public health will notify the patient what to do next.
- If the test is negative, it is the responsibility of the ordering provider to inform the patient.
- Results will be auto-released in a patient's MyChart within 24 hours after test results are available.

Refer to the latest information on this in the [COVID-19 Toolkit](#) as this is a rapidly evolving situation.

Follow these instructions to use the [COVID-19 Coronavirus Panel](#). **Please note:** Ensure the tube cap is screwed on tightly. The specimen sample is to be packed in a double bag with the requisition in the outermost pocket and hand delivered to your local lab. They are not to go in the pneumatic tube system.

Recommendations and guidelines are dynamic in the present circumstances. Updated information will be provided as available.

[Cleveland Clinic Weston](#)

Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital is currently following Florida Department of Health (DOH) criteria for testing. If a person meets secondary DOH criteria for testing and comes in as an outpatient to the Weston emergency department, lab tests will be sent to main campus in Cleveland.

Visit the [COVID-19 intranet site](#) for more information and resources.