

**What is COVID-19 testing?**

It is a test performed to determine if you are a carrier of the SARS-COV-2 virus which is responsible for the current COVID-19 pandemic.

**How is it performed?**

It is performed by trained health care personnel by swabbing the back of your nose/throat.

**When should I get tested?**

You will be notified of an appointment date and time, but in general it should be performed 2-3 days prior to your surgery or procedure. You should self-quarantine after the test until your surgery/procedure.

**Why does testing need to be performed prior to my surgery/procedure?**

The test is being performed to keep you, our other patients, and our staff safe. If the test result is positive, we will contact you and your surgery/procedure will likely be postponed. You will need to self-quarantine and contact your primary care provider for further guidance. We will work with you to determine when it is safe to reschedule your procedure.

**Why does my surgery/procedure need to be canceled if the test result is positive and there are no symptoms?**

Studies have demonstrated significantly increased risk of complications in patients who underwent surgery or certain procedures while infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. There is also the potential to expose our health care providers to the virus during your care.

**Will I be notified about the test result?**

Yes, we will notify you of test results. If you signed up for MyChart with UConn Health, test results will also be available online. To sign up for MyChart, go to [mychart.uconn.edu](https://mychart.uconn.edu).

**Can I get COVID-19 after my surgery/procedure?**

Yes. The test is only to determine if you are carrying the virus at the time of the test. It does not test for immunity to the virus.

**How should I protect myself from being infected by COVID-19 in preparation for surgery or certain procedures as well as during my recovery period?**

Follow the CDC guidelines including social distancing, covering your face when in public, and other personal hygiene measures. In addition, for one week prior to your surgery/procedure and for two weeks after your surgery/procedure exercise extra caution including self-quarantining and limiting travel outside the house unless necessary.

The current CDC recommendations can be found at:

[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html).

**Contact your health care provider for questions about your surgery/procedure.  
For questions regarding COVID, call the COVID Call Center at 860-679-3199.**