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.

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:

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