

## [Guidance - UConn Health - COVID-19 Testing for Employees: June 19, 2020](#)

### **Introduction**

UConn Health has implemented entry screening protocols and social distancing measures throughout our facilities, provided personal protective equipment (PPE), and put numerous other safety precautions in place to combat the spread of COVID-19. An employee SARS-CoV-2 testing program is another part of this strategy, helping us determine the prevalence of COVID-19 among our employees. Understanding this prevalence rate throughout and within specific areas will be an important tool as we continuously update our overall safety strategy and protocols. This employee testing program aligns with both state re-opening guidelines and sound principles for managing the pandemic risk as we ramp up our outpatient practices.

### **Guidance**

- **Testing of Symptomatic Employees.** UConn Health employees who experience symptoms of COVID-19 will continue to be referred to the UConn Health COVID-19 Call Center for assessment by a provider and the determination of whether SARS-CoV-2 testing is indicated.
- **Testing of Asymptomatic Employees.** UConn Health will phase-in a program of randomized COVID-19 sampling for asymptomatic employees. Phase 1 of the program will involve randomly choosing UConn Health direct care employees working in both hospital and outpatient clinical environments (including Dental) for sampling, to determine COVID-19 prevalence. A statistically significant number of clinical employees will be chosen to participate in the Phase I sampling, to ensure confidence in the results.

Participation in the Phase I sampling is voluntary, not mandatory. However, participation is strongly encouraged, as it will help our organization determine the prevalence of COVID-19 among our employees.

Phase II of the program will move forward based upon the results of the Phase I sampling. Based on the prevalence of positive results and other data we obtain in Phase I, we will determine next steps, which may include testing additional employees, providing repeated surveillance testing, or focusing testing on certain areas.

- **Exceptions.** UConn Health employees who are required by state law to be tested for COVID-19, such as those who work in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, will not be part of the phased-in program of randomized sampling. Such

employees, as well as symptomatic employees, are required to be tested for COVID-19 to continue to perform their duties.

- **Positive Results.** An employee who tests positive will be contacted by the UConn Health COVID-19 Call Center. The COVID-19 Call Center will notify Human Resources and the employee's manager via secured email. The COVID-19 Call Center will also provide guidance and information to the employee on the need for self-monitoring or isolation, based on institutional and CDC guidelines and, where appropriate, will refer the employee to her or his primary care physician for medical care.

Employees who test positive are also required to provide information to enable contact tracing to be performed. Accordingly, employees experiencing symptoms who seek testing outside of UConn Health must call the UConn Health COVID-19 Call Center with the results.