

Testing Patients Being Hospitalized at JDH for COVID-19

Repeat testing for SARS-CoV-2 among patients with a prior positive test after discontinuation of Transmission Based Precautions

For persons previously diagnosed with symptomatic COVID-19 who remain asymptomatic after recovery, *retesting is not recommended within 3 months (12 weeks) after the date of symptom onset for the initial COVID-19 infection* in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Patients who are asymptomatic and admitted within 12 weeks after a positive test will not be retested on admission or prior to a procedure. Individuals within 21 days of a positive test should be managed using COVID-19 precautions. Asymptomatic patients who present for admission or pre-procedure testing > 12 weeks after their initial positive test will be retested in accordance with current procedures. Please review the attached table and testing algorithm for details.

For persons who recovered from COVID-19 and develop new symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during the 12 weeks after the date of initial symptom onset, if an alternative etiology cannot be identified, then the person may warrant retesting. Consultation with Infectious Diseases is recommended. Isolation is recommended during this evaluation.

Testing guideline

Known COVID Status	Time Frame	COVID-19 Symptoms	Test on Admission	Precautions/ Floor Type ¹
Unknown	All timeframes	Either Yes or No	Yes	PUI
+	<3 weeks	N/A	No	COVID Positive
+	3-12 weeks	Yes	Yes ²	PUI
+ ³	3-12 weeks	No	No	COVID Negative
+	>12 weeks	N/A	Yes	PUI
-	Within 72 hours prior to admission	No	No	COVID Negative
-	Within 72 hours prior to admission	Yes	Yes	PUI

Updated 12/18/20

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>

² Select patients with mild illness or asymptomatic patients who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 may be eligible for discontinuation of Transmission Based precautions 10 days after the first positive SARS-COV-2 RNA PCR test on a case by case basis. Please call the Department of Epidemiology to review the case to determine whether precautions can be discontinued prior to 20 days post-test.

³ Patients with severe immunocompromising conditions (stem cell or solid organ transplant recipients, Immunosuppressive drugs (ex. cancer chemotherapy, chronic steroids, TNF alpha inhibitors, immunomodulators), Inherited immunodeficiency, HIV Infection with CD4 count < 200) should be handled on a case-by-case basis with consultation from Infection Control/Infectious Diseases