



## COVID-19 Inpatient Testing Pathway

Approved: COVID Clinical Care Pathway Steering Committee\_V17\_06/08/20

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[Clinical Guidelines](#)[Journal References](#)[Contributors](#)**Quick Orders**

- COVID-19 RNA - SARS CoV-2 (preferred test for diagnosis) with enhanced precautions
- CBC w/diff
- CMP
- CRP
- Blood cultures
- Respiratory culture
- EKG
- D-dimer
- Chest x-ray
- LDH
- Ferritin
- Procalcitonin
- Lactate
- ABG or VBG (If concern for respiratory failure)
- Serum HCG
- UA/Urine culture (If urinary symptoms)
- Urine sodium, urine creatinine and urine protein
- Troponin
- Pneumocystis DFA (for immunocompromised patients)
- Hepatitis serologies (for interpretation of LFTs)
- HIV 1/2 Ab/Ag Screen
- Urine legionella antigen
- Urine Streptococcus pneumoniae Antigen

**UCHealth COVID-19 Inpatient Testing Pathway**

Has patient been tested for COVID-19?

Yes

See [COVID-19 Inpatient Management Pathway](#)

No

Is patient **symptomatic**?

No

Does patient meet UCHealth definition of "high-risk exposure screen?"

- Exposure/close contact with a COVID-positive person, **OR**
- Experiencing homelessness, **OR**
- Resides in congregate setting (e.g. jail, shelter, nursing home, LTACH)

Yes

No

Order **SARS-CoV-2 PCR for Clearance and Screening with Enhanced Precautions**Order **SARS-CoV-2 PCR for Clearance and Screening AND apply universal masking**

Perform all sample collection/testing for COVID-19 with Enhanced Airborne Precautions with the door closed. Maintain Enhanced Airborne Precautions for appropriate time (30 minutes for negative isolation room, 60 minutes for all other rooms), then return to Enhanced Precautions or Universal Masking as appropriate.

[What to do if patient refuses COVID testing](#)Was COVID Test **Positive**?Yes,  
(+) PositiveNo,  
(-) Negative

Transfer to a COVID unit (if available)

- Place or maintain enhanced droplet precautions, unless aerosol-generating procedure

No transfer necessary

- Change to or continue universal masking precautions
- Proceed with normal care

See [COVID-19 Inpatient Management Pathway](#)**Order the following tests (if not already ordered)****Order:**

- COVID-19 RNA - SARS CoV-2 (preferred test for diagnosis) with enhanced precautions
  - Perform all sample collection/testing for COVID-19 with Enhanced Airborne Precautions with the door closed.
    - Maintain Enhanced Airborne Precautions for appropriate time, then return to enhanced precautions or universal masking as appropriate.
  - [PPE Recommendations](#)
  - Coinfections are uncommon, though new reports of rhinovirus co-infection and influenza infection are increasing so coinfection does not rule out COVID-19
  - [Sensitivity of test](#)

If patient **refuses testing**: maintain enhanced droplet precautions. Bed placement on COVID unit (if applicable).

**Consider:**

- CBC w/diff
- CMP
- CRP
- Blood cultures
- Respiratory culture
- EKG
- D-dimer
- Chest x-ray
  - Note: [Chest CT not Recommended](#) for screening or diagnosis of COVID-19, per the American College of Radiology.

**Additional testing as appropriate (for baseline data and prognostication):**

- LDH
- Ferritin
- Procalcitonin
- Lactate
- ABG or VBG (If concern for respiratory failure)
- Serum HCG
- UA/Urine culture (If urinary symptoms)
- Urine sodium, urine creatinine and urine protein ([reference](#))
- Troponin
- Pneumocystis DFA (for immunocompromised patients)
- Hepatitis serologies (for interpretation of LFTs)
- HIV 1/2 Ab/Ag Screen
- Urine legionella antigen
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**Bed Placement**

- If **non-immunocompromised**: Place in COVID unit (if applicable), **OR**
- If **immunocompromised**: Place in non-COVID unit with negative airflow (if applicable), **OR**
- If applicable, see [PACU/Post-Procedural Patient Placement](#)

See [COVID-19 Inpatient Management Pathway](#)