

Duke University Hospital COVID-19 Testing Guidance

The table below outlines 12 categories of patients and the respective approved tests at Duke University Hospital. Guidelines at DRH and DRAH vary based on workflows and testing capabilities; please work with the respective entity CMO for appropriate guidance.

Test/Order Names & Definitions

1. **Point of Care Test (POCT):** This test is similar to other POCT performed across the health system and requires that a specific device is physically located in the clinical environment. Turnaround Times (TAT) for positive tests is approximately 5 minutes; TAT for negative tests is 15 minutes. POCT units are limited and therefore have been deployed to areas where case volumes indicate regular use.
2. **Inpatient Test:** This in-house molecular diagnostic test currently has a median TAT of 5 hours from test order to test result.
3. **Outpatient Test:** This in-house molecular diagnostic test has a targeted TAT of 12-24 hours.
4. **Preoperative Screen:** This in-house molecular diagnostic test has a targeted TAT of 12-24 hours.
5. **IP/Administrative Test:** This in-house molecular diagnostic test has a targeted TAT of 12-24 hours. It is not linked to a “Rule out COVID” infection status and is used when indicated for screening asymptomatic patients or removing isolation precautions in a patient who has recovered.

If emergent care is required prior to receiving test results, use [appropriate PPE](#).

Category	Examples	Approved COVID Test
Symptomatic* inpatients		Inpatient Test
Asymptomatic inpatients who reside in congregate facilities**	SNFs, group homes, prisons	Inpatient Test
All other asymptomatic inpatients		No testing indicated unless required for SNF placement (use IP Administrative Orderable)
Obstetrics Inpatients		POCT
Symptomatic* Outpatients	Respiratory Care Centers; dialysis patients; congregate living facilities**	Likely admission: POCT Unlikely admission: Outpatient Test
Asymptomatic Outpatients		No testing indicated

Category	Examples	Approved COVID Test
Perioperative	Level 1-4 OR and IR cases	POCT as described in the peri-operative protocol
Pre-Procedural	EGD, TEE, Cardioversion, Urgent nasal endoscopy (full approved list of procedures here)	Pre-scheduled Local Outpatient: Outpatient test Urgent/Distant Outpatient: POCT at GC Lot Drive-up (see process/details here). Inpatient: Inpatient Test
Behavioral Health, Asymptomatic and Symptomatic	Inpatient or ER Behavioral Health Units	ED: POCT Inpatient: Inpatient Test
Immunocompromised, Symptomatic	Solid organ transplant, immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapy, immunodeficiency syndromes, pre-term infants	ED: POCT Inpatient: Inpatient Test Outpatient: Outpatient Test
Immunocompromised, Asymptomatic	Solid organ transplant, immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapy, immunodeficiency syndromes, pre-term infants	Refer to recommendations for testing asymptomatic transplant patients Pre-term infants, other cancer chemotherapy, immunodeficiency syndromes: Inpatient Test***
Patients who are non-verbal and/or in whom no reliable history can be obtained (regardless of symptoms)	Acute stroke patients	ED: POCT Inpatient: Inpatient Test

* Symptomatic Patients: Fever, upper/lower respiratory symptoms, pulmonary infiltrates

** Congregate facilities include skilled nursing facilities, group homes, prisons, etc.

*** Use inpatient test orderable for outpatients who meet these criteria