

CMO SPECIAL REPORT: COVID-19 UPDATE

FROM THE DESK OF

Amy Tucker, MD, MHCM, Chief Medical Officer, Upstate University Hospital
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, College of Medicine
Vice President, Ambulatory Services and Population Health, Upstate Medical University

UPSTATE

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

MARCH 18, 2020

Let's trust our COVID-19 Team

Each of us is exposed to a lot of information and misinformation about COVID-19 hourly. Upstate has the benefit of a robust COVID-19 team working around-the-clock to provide recommendations based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence and best practices available. Our COVID Team guidance will surely differ from some of the practices you see at other organizations and in the media. Please know that the Upstate COVID Team is basing recommendations on a thoughtful synthesis of the reliable data at hand. Let's trust our strong team, and thank them for the tireless work they are doing to keep us safe.

PAPR hoods and Goggles are in short supply

PAPRs and Goggles are critically short. These are reusable. When you finish with the PAPR hood, put it in a clear (not red) plastic bag to go distribution, who will assess them for integrity and clean them if they are suitable for reuse. Please clean goggles with a PDI wipe after use (not bleach) and reuse. Do not discard them!

Avoid Rounding in Large Groups

For the safety of our clinicians, please avoid rounding in large groups as much as possible. Divide into smaller teams. Also, limit the number of clinicians going in and out of the room of any patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

COVID-19 Testing

Each of the health systems in the area is getting low on supplies for COVID-19 testing and is struggling to get more. Please **do not** perform COVID-19 screening tests on patients in whom fever or symptoms are attributable to an established or highly likely alternate diagnosis.

Inpatient Consultations

Clinicians should be judicious in their requests for inpatient and Emergency Department consultative services to avoid exposing patients and colleagues to risk from unnecessary contact or procedures. That having been said, we are not suspending consultative services in specific areas, such as the Emergency Department. Please continue to provide needed services to the Emergency Department and other areas of the hospital.

ALERT —
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PRIORITY BUT NOT FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION
FOR INFORMATION; UNLIKELY TO REQUIRE ACTION

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Recommendations for Staff Responses to Exposure Risks

The following Table was developed in collaboration with ID and Infection Prevention, reflecting the information available through March 17. Recommendations for COVID-19 responses are rapidly evolving so stay tuned for updates, refinements, and modifications.

Exposure Scenario	Patient's PPE	Staff PPE	Staff Action after Contact / Potential Exposure
No Known Exposure	None Recommended	None Recommended	No action
COVID Ruleout Patient	Appropriate PPE* for Patient	Appropriate PPE for Staff**	No action
	Patient without PPE	Appropriate PPE for staff	No action
	Patient without PPE	Inappropriate PPE for staff	***Continue to work, monitor symptoms and temperature until test COVID test results available, if longer than 48 hours for test results wear surgical mask
COVID Positive Patient	Appropriate PPE* for Patient	Appropriate PPE **	No action
	Patient without PPE	Appropriate PPE for staff	No action
	Patient without PPE	Inappropriate PPE for staff	***Continue to work, wear a mask, monitor symptoms and temperature for 14 days or until symptoms develop. For symptoms, seek medical care
COVID Positive Patient having a High Risk Procedure. (eg FOB/BAL, NP swab collection, Intubation, Surgical procedures which	N/A	Appropriate PPE **	No action
	N/A	Inappropriate PPE for staff	***Continue to work, wear a surgical mask, monitor symptoms and temperature, continue for 14 days or until symptoms develop. For symptoms, seek medical care
Staff member positive for COVID			Should not work for at least 7 consecutive days. Contact Employee Health prior to returning to work.

Notes

* Appropriate patient PPE = surgical mask

** Appropriate provider PPE = N95 mask or PAPR for clinician OR both patient & provider wearing surgical mask; goggles or shield; gloves; gown

*** Incubation period from time of exposure to time of symptoms ~5 days; Earliest time from exposure to time of potential infectiousness estimated at 2.5 days; Current time from sample collection to COVID test results < 48 hours

Traffic through Crouse

Seth Kronenberg and I are trying to prevent non-clinical traffic between organizations. Please continue to use the tunnel to your offices in the POB, or to provide clinical services, but do not go to the Crouse cafeteria or other public spaces for non-clinical activities. Thanks.

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Negative COVID results

Currently, the County Health Department is only notifying patients about positive COVID results, not negative ones. Results from tests initiated at Upstate are available to patients in MyChart. We are working on an efficient process to notify patients without MyChart of their negative results. Stay tuned.

Thanks to you all for fighting the good fight.

Amy

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