

Subject: New Procedures for COVID Testing

Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 5:00:48 PM Central Daylight Time

From: Provider Updates

To: Keppley, Marissa C.

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The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Providers,

As COVID-19 continues to surge, our need for testing has outgrown our operational ability at our current location in the Kirklin Clinic parking deck. We will move our testing operation once again to the UAB Hospital-Highlands parking deck beginning Monday, August 16. This will allow us to better respond to the needs of your patients, as the COVID rates increase in our community.

The new drive-through testing site location will be open **Sunday through Friday, 7:30 am to 11:30 am**. This will allow us to test approximately 120 patients per hour.

The increase in testing and positivity rates will mean operational changes in our testing processes. They are explained below.

- **Preprocedure patients being seen in PACT-** Our testing window is changing to be a **four day window, down from five (see explanation below)**. If a patient for an inpatient or ambulatory procedure will be seen in PACT within the four day testing window, the COVID-19 test will be performed in PACT. The Clinic should place the order for the COVID test.
 - Day 1 – day of COVID test
 - Day 2
 - Day 3
 - Day 4 – day of procedure
- **Preprocedure patient being seen in PACT outside of the four day testing window** – The Surgery Clinic should place the order for the COVID-19 test and schedule the test at the drive-through test site using the new **COVID Pre-Op (603131)** template.
- **Preprocedure patients who do not go to PACT** – The Clinic should place the order for the COVID-19 test and schedule the test at the drive-through test site using the new **COVID Pre-Op (603131)** template.
 - For the areas using the “COVID DIRECT REFERRAL POOL” or the PHCC for scheduling, you will continue your current process.

*Those patients who are already scheduled for their COVID-19 test on the old template will be

moved to the new template by the access center. There is no need for the clinic to move or reschedule those patients to the new templates.

**COVID convalesced guidelines are still in place.

- **Symptomatic patients being seen in Clinic** - Clinics should not try to schedule patients directly in the system but instead send a message to the COVID Direct Message Pool in Cerner with the words “**Same-Day Symptomatic**” in the subject line, so the patient can be added to our schedule. Please do not send symptomatic patients for COVID testing to the TKC or Whitaker labs, and unless they require emergency care, do not send them to the Emergency Department for testing.
- **Symptomatic patients or community members not currently in our facility** – Patients and community members should call the COVID Call Center at 205-975-1881 to be screened for a COVID-19 test appointment. The COVID Call Center is open Sunday-Friday, 7 am-5 pm.
- **Employees who are symptomatic or have exposures**-Employees should report through Healthcheck or the [Employee Exposure or Symptomatic Form](#) to be scheduled for a COVID-19 test.
- **Patients or community members seeking travel testing**-Travel testing will continue at UAB Urgent Care, located at 125 20th St S, Birmingham, AL 35233

Please let me know if you have questions about these processes. Thank you for all you do to provide a healthier community for us all.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Payne, RN, MSN, MSHA, LSSGB
Associate Vice President
UAB Medicine Ambulatory Services

This email was sent to mkeppley@uabmc.edu.

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