INTERIM NYP Laboratory COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Testing
Availability and Request Process

March 11, 2020

The outbreak situation with COVID-19 is rapidly evolving. Starting 3/11/2020, NYP now has limited internal testing capabilities for COVID-19 available through laboratories at both Columbia and Weill Cornell campuses. This will improve the care we provide for patients with suspected COVID-19 and the safety of our healthcare providers across the NYP Enterprise.

This test is a Real Time PCR assay with an expected turnaround time of 8-24 hours. However, our current capacity cannot accommodate universal testing for all patients with suspected COVID-19 and testing will require approval by Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C). This memo outlines the testing criteria and request process which should be applicable for testing at NYP. Testing for outpatients, and testing for patients discharged home from the ED cannot be accommodated at NYP labs at this current time.

Testing in most cases will only be approved for patients who meet one of the following criteria:

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<th>Clinical Features</th>
<th>AND</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<td>Fever or cough or shortness of breath</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>Currently hospitalized or will require inpatient hospitalization and without an alternative explanation.*</td>
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| Fever or cough or shortness of breath or sore throat | AND | NYP healthcare workers with epidemiologic risk factors for COVID-19
Epidemiologic risk factors include:
- Recent (<14 days) travel to a level 2/3 alert country (Iran, Italy, China, South Korea, Japan)
- Exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19
- Part of a cluster of suspected COVID-19 illness as defined by IP&C |
| Fever or cough or shortness of breath or sore throat | AND | Approval by IP&C based on discussion with clinical providers |

*Examples of an alternative explanation include positive results for a different respiratory virus

NYP lab testing is NOT recommended for asymptomatic individuals even if exposed.
We recommend the following steps in ordering the NYP laboratory test

1. Clinician calls local IP&C office for patients who meet above criteria to request approval.
2. Once approved please collect specimens. Please use the SAME kit used to collect respiratory pathogen PCR. Use one swab for OP and one separate swab for NP and place them together in one vial. The laboratories are not accepting sputum at this time.
3. Please hand-deliver specimen to the laboratory with a paper requisition form.
4. IP&C will authorize the microbiology laboratory to perform the test.

Contact Department of Infection Prevention & Control at your site:
NYP-AH: 212-932-5219
NYP-CU, NYP-MSCH, ACN: 212-305-7025
NYP-LH: 914-787-3045
NYP-LMH: 212-312-5976
NYP-WC, NYP-WBHC, ACN: 212-746-1754
NYP-BMH: 718-780-3569
NYP-HVH: 914-734-3927
NYP-Q: 718-670-1255