June 3, 2020 communication from NYP to clinical managers and healthcare providers
RE: Pre-procedure COVID-19 Testing

For clinical managers and all healthcare providers:

As we begin to reopen our inpatient and ambulatory services across NYP, we will be testing all patients scheduled for potential or confirmed aerosol-generating surgical or other procedures for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The testing, in addition to symptom screening, will help us to optimize patient outcomes and prevent transmission of SARS-CoV-2 to other patients and healthcare personnel (HCP).

All patients undergoing potential or confirmed aerosol-generating procedures or surgeries will need to have a PCR/nasopharyngeal (nose) swab test for SARS-CoV-2 as close to the time of the procedure as possible and within the 3 days prior to the procedure. Please note that antibody/serology testing for SARS-CoV-2 is NOT appropriate for pre-procedure testing and even patients known to have antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 will still be required to undergo pre-procedure PCR-based testing.

Prior to and upon arrival for pre-procedure testing and/or prior to the procedure/surgery, all patients will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms, including subjective or measured fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle aches, diarrhea, fatigue, headache, chills/rigors, new onset loss of smell, or altered sense of taste. If a patient is symptomatic, pre-procedural/pre-surgical testing will be postponed and non-emergent procedures will likely be deferred as well. Symptomatic patients should NOT be sent to the pre-procedure/pre-surgical testing sites.

How to Help Patients Access the PCR Test

HCP who would like to schedule a pre-procedure PCR SARS-CoV-2 test for their patients at a NYP testing location should place an order for the PCR test through the campuses’ respective EMR (EPIC, Athena, Cerner). Patients should then be directed to call the **NYP Patient Testing Call Center** at 646-NYP-EXAM to schedule an appointment at a testing location that is most convenient for them. If you do not have access to the EMR of the patients chosen testing site, you will need to provide a written order/prescription for the patient to be tested at that site. For example, a Weill Cornell provider who would like the patient to be tested at one of the Queens testing locations (a non-Epic site) will need to provide a written order for the PCR test to be administered. Appointment slots are subject to availability at each NYP location. Patients should be reminded to wear a mask or face-covering to the testing location.

Patients may also receive testing at outside institutions as long as a PCR/nose swab has been collected **within the 3 days prior to procedure** and the health care provider is able to obtain written documentation of results (i.e., paper copy or through patient portal).

For more information on the testing process and protocols, please view the [FAQs](#) and the [current testing location map](#).