

COVID-19 Testing for Surgeries and Procedures Frequently Asked Questions

This document has been updated as of May 7, 2020

Q: Who requires COVID-19 testing?

A: All inpatients and outpatients having surgery in an operating room or an Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) require a COVID-19 test with the exception of patients undergoing a procedure or endoscopy in self-contained units such as A3.

Q: When did COVID-19 tests become mandatory for surgeries and procedures?

A: Mandatory testing went into effect Monday, May 4.

Q: When should testing be completed?

A: Testing should be performed 2-3 days or 72 hours prior to surgery.

Q: Should I hold off on other pre-op tests while waiting COVID-19 results?

A: No, you do not need to wait. Preoperative testing should proceed while awaiting COVID-19 test results.

Q: How do I order a pre-op COVID-19 test?

A: The COVID-19 testing order should be placed in Epic as "AMB PRE-OPERATIVE COVID TESTING PANEL". Patients will be contacted by a scheduler to have their COVID-19 testing appointment scheduled.

Q: If a COVID-19 order exists, do I need to place another for pre-op?

A: No, only one Cleveland Clinic electronic provider's order is required for COVID-19 testing, unless an additional operation / procedure is being performed beyond the 72 hour window.

Q: What locations exist for COVID-19 testing?

A: On-site testing in Ohio is by appointment only and available at the W.O. Walker Building (Cleveland Clinic main campus), Cleveland Clinic Akron General Health and Wellness Center in Green, Willoughby Hills FHC, Brunswick FHC and Rocky River Urgent Care. Access to testing is available at several locations 7 days a week. A Cleveland Clinic electronic provider's order is required for COVID-19 testing.

Q: What if a patient was tested outside of Cleveland Clinic?

A: Non-Cleveland Clinic or outside PCR COVID-19 test results are acceptable as long as they have appropriate written documentation and occurred within 3 days or 72 hours of the surgery or procedure.

Q: What happens if a surgical patient's test is positive for COVID-19?

A: Cleveland Clinic Home Monitoring will call to notify the patient and inform them of next steps. The patient's surgery or procedure should be postponed unless emergent. For additional questions, refer to the [Surgical Workflow](#) PDF in the Reactivation Toolkit.

Q: What if the patient refuses COVID-19 testing?

A: COVID-19 testing is for the continued safety of all patients and Cleveland Clinic caregivers. If the patient refuses testing, surgery should be postponed and medically counseled as to their risk related to the delay of their surgery or procedure.

Q: Is there any transportation on main campus to and from the Walker building for COVID-19 testing?

A: Yes, if a patient is already on main campus, there is a shuttle service to and from the Walker testing site. Patients can inquire as to time and locations with any Red Coat.

Q: What happens if a patient shows up for surgery and the COVID-19 test results are missing, inconclusive, expired or the test has not been performed?

A: Reference the [Covid-19 Pre-Operative Surgery Decision Tree](#) on page 7 of the Surgical Workflow.

Q: What if a patient was tested and received a negative result but it occurred outside the 3 days or 72 hour window?

A: If the test results occurred longer than 3 days or 72 hours, this is an expired result. Reference the [Covid-19 Pre-Operative Surgery Decision Tree](#) on page 7 of the Surgical Workflow.

Q: Why is testing required within 3 days or 72 hours before surgery?

A: This allows adequate time to receive results and minimizes the risk of infection prior to surgery.

Q: Is COVID-19 testing for patients undergoing procedures in specialty suites mandatory? (e.g., IMRIS, gamma knife, interventional radiology, EP suites, cardiac catheterization, bronchoscopy)

A: Yes, in locations where patients receive their pre- or post-procedure care in shared spaces COVID-19 testing is required.

If a patient is in a dedicated space, it is at the discretion of the medical team and not mandatory.