

# COVID-19 Testing for NIH ClinicalCenter (CC)

## Inpatient Admissions

### Patient Fact Sheet

This document is to share information about our COVID-19 testing process for inpatients. We appreciate your patience, understanding, and partnership as we take these steps. Our number one priority is protecting your health and safety, as well that of your NIH healthcare providers.

- Everyone entering the NIH CC is given a mask to wear while in the hospital. You will need to wear this all day unless you remove it for a test or treatment, eating or drinking. When you arrive at your destination you will be screened by a healthcare provider who will ask several questions to determine if you are at risk for COVID-19 infection, including whether you have symptoms of COVID-19.
- All patients admitted to the NIH CC will be tested for COVID-19 and other important respiratory viruses. Inpatients are those patients whose care in the NIH CC involves an overnight stay.
- In order to provide the most protection to all patients, visitors, and CC staff, it is very important every inpatient and rooming in visitor be tested. If, for any reason, you feel strongly that you should not be tested, please inform your primary NIH medical team. Your request for exemption will be reviewed by hospital administration. The request must then be approved by the CC CEO.
- The admission COVID-19 test is mandatory. The NIH CC will not admit an inpatient who refuses testing for COVID-19 unless an exemption has been approved.
- The COVID-19 test involves a swab of one nostril to collect a sample. The collection takes about 15-20 seconds and can be slightly uncomfortable. Results will be available in 24 to 36 hours.
- An inpatient who screens negative (i.e., does not report symptoms of COVID-19 during screening) will proceed to his/her scheduled inpatient unit where he or she will complete the admissions process. A trained nurse will then administer the COVID-19 test inside the patient's room as part of the admissions process. Each patient will be expected to remain in his/her room until the results become available, unless otherwise directed by CC staff.
- An inpatient who upon arrival screens positive (i.e., reports symptoms of COVID-19 during screening) will be escorted directly to a separate dedicated space for more assessment and COVID-19 testing. In other words, the test may happen prior to the admissions process. The patient will remain in this location until results become available.
- All inpatient visitors who have been approved to "room in" will be required to be tested for COVID-19. A visitor who refuses to be tested for COVID-19 will not be approved to "room in". The visitor will then be tested inside the patient's room and will be required to remain there until the test results become available.

Please contact your primary NIH medical team if you have more questions about COVID-19.