

Change in COVID-19 Testing Procedures

May 19 2023, Friday

We are pleased to share that due to a decrease in COVID-19 in our communities, **effective Monday, May 22, we are no longer mandating routine preadmission or preprocedural testing** for patients who do not have symptoms of or a high-risk exposure to COVID-19.

A review of our own data from April, combined with the continued decline in reported COVID-19 cases in the community, indicates that it is safe to stop testing most patients being admitted. Other health care systems in the New York metropolitan area have stopped testing all admissions and have reported no significant uptick in hospital-related COVID-19 infections.

This is an important milestone and has been a long time coming. However, we must remain vigilant and ask our health care providers to have a low threshold for testing patients being admitted. The following patients should be tested for COVID-19, unless they had a diagnosis of COVID-19 in the previous 30 days:

- Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of severity
- Anyone who has had a high-risk exposure (e.g., household contact, unmasked exposure for more than 15 minutes) to someone with COVID-19 in the last 10 days

Patients who undergo testing for COVID-19 will still be designated as patient under investigation (PUI) and therefore need to be isolated until a negative result is confirmed.

Please be sure to share this news with your colleagues and patients. Thank you for all you have done to help make our city and region a safer place.

Vicki LoPachin, MD, MBA
Senior Vice President
Chief Medical Officer
Mount Sinai Health System

Bernard Camins, MD, MSc
Medical Director, Infection Prevention
Mount Sinai Health System