

SARS-CoV-2 Viral Test Result Delays

December 3, 2020, Thursday

The Mount Sinai Hospital Center for Clinical Laboratories is experiencing delays in resulting of SARS-CoV-2 viral tests due to overwhelming system-wide demands for testing and national shortages of test kits and plastics. We are currently experiencing turnaround times for test results of 24-48 hours from the time of specimen collection.

We have added a testing platform, which will allow us to expand our capacity significantly. However, it has a longer turnaround time than other platforms. While these delays continue, providers should plan patient care with these timelines in mind.

You can help with laboratory efficiency by:

1. Using electronic orders and barcoded labels
2. Ensuring preprocedural testing takes place at least two days before the scheduled procedure
3. Limiting requests to expedite specimens to situations that will urgently affect patient care. These requests should be made prior to ordering the test.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience through this challenging period.

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