

**INTERIM NYP Laboratory COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Testing**

**Availability and Request Process**

**March 11, 2020**

The outbreak situation with COVID-19 is rapidly evolving. Starting 3/11/2020, NYP now has limited internal testing capabilities for COVID-19 available through laboratories at both Columbia and Weill Cornell campuses. This will improve the care we provide for patients with suspected COVID-19 and the safety of our healthcare providers across the NYP Enterprise.

This test is a Real Time PCR assay with an expected turnaround time of 8-24 hours. However, our current capacity cannot accommodate universal testing for all patients with suspected COVID-19 and testing will require approval by Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C). This memo outlines the testing criteria and request process which should be applicable for testing at NYP. **Testing for outpatients, and testing for patients discharged home from the ED cannot be accommodated at NYP labs at this current time.**

Testing in most cases will **only be approved** for patients who meet one of the following criteria:

<b>Clinical Features</b>	<b>AND</b>	<b>Other</b>
Fever <b>or</b> cough <b>or</b> shortness of breath	<b>AND</b>	<b>Currently hospitalized or will require inpatient hospitalization and without an alternative explanation.*</b>
Fever <b>or</b> cough <b>or</b> shortness of breath <b>or</b> sore throat	<b>AND</b>	NYP healthcare workers with epidemiologic risk factors for COVID-19 Epidemiologic risk factors include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent (&lt;14 days) travel to a level 2/3 alert country (Iran, Italy, China, South Korea, Japan)</li> <li>• Exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19</li> <li>• Part of a cluster of suspected COVID-19 illness as defined by IP&amp;C</li> </ul>
Fever <b>or</b> cough <b>or</b> shortness of breath <b>or</b> sore throat	<b>AND</b>	Approval by IP&C based on discussion with clinical providers

*\*Examples of an alternative explanation include positive results for a different respiratory virus*

**NYP lab testing is NOT recommended for asymptomatic individuals even if exposed.**

**We recommend the following steps in ordering the NYP laboratory test**

1. Clinician calls local IP&C office for patients who meet above criteria to request approval.
2. Once approved please collect specimens. Please use the SAME kit used to collect respiratory pathogen PCR. Use **one swab for OP** and **one separate swab for NP** and **place them together in one vial**. The laboratories are not accepting sputum at this time.
3. Please hand-deliver specimen to the laboratory with a paper requisition form.
4. IP&C will authorize the microbiology laboratory to perform the test.



**Contact Department of Infection Prevention & Control at your site:**

**NYP-AH:** 212-932-5219

**NYP-CU, NYP-MSCH, ACN:** 212-305-7025

**NYP-LH:** 914-787-3045

**NYP-LMH:** 212-312-5976

**NYP-WC, NYP-WBHC, ACN:** 212-746-1754

**NYP-BMH:** 718-780-3569

**NYP-HVH:** 914-734-3927

**NYP-Q:** 718-670-1255