

# Pre-procedure COVID-19 Testing FAQs

Starting June 13, patients requiring an elective procedure will undergo a COVID-19 antigen test immediately prior to the procedure in the pre-procedure area, regardless of vaccination status. This change is in accordance with new guidelines released by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

## **I HAVE A PROCEDURE SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK. WHEN DO I NEED TO GET TESTED?**

You will be tested immediately prior to the procedure with a COVID-19 antigen test supplied by CVPH and witnessed by a staff member. All you need to do is show up promptly for your procedure, and we will handle the rest.

## **WHO NEEDS TO GET TESTED? HOW DO I KNOW IF I NEED TO GET TESTED BEFORE MY PROCEDURE?**

We are testing all patients undergoing any procedure, regardless of vaccination status. The only exception is if you are asymptomatic and have recovered from COVID-19 within 90 days of your initial diagnosis. Contact your provider if you are unsure about whether you will be tested before the procedure.

## **I JUST HAD COVID RECENTLY. DO I STILL NEED TO BE TESTED?**

If you have recently recovered from a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 illness, you will not need to be tested as long as you are:

- Asymptomatic;
- Your quarantine time is complete (10 days after a positive COVID-19 test);
- And you are within 90 days of your initial diagnosis as confirmed by a laboratory test date.

To ensure accuracy, we can only accept test results that are verifiable through NYSDOH or at an independent lab.

## **I'M HAVING SYMPTOMS FROM ALLERGIES (OR SOMETHING ELSE NON-COVID RELATED). IF I TEST NEGATIVE ON THE ANTIGEN, DO I HAVE TO GET A PCR TEST TO CONFIRM I'M NEGATIVE?**

No. A negative antigen test gives us the confidence that we can safely move forward with the procedure.

## **ARE THERE ANY PROCEDURES WHERE I DON'T HAVE TO GET TESTED OR THAT REQUIRE A PCR TEST AHEAD OF TIME INSTEAD OF AN ANTIGEN TEST?**

No. We are utilizing COVID-19 antigen tests for all patients before every scheduled, elective procedure, in accordance with NYSDOH guidelines.



## **CAN I BRING YOU MY TEST THAT I JUST TOOK AT HOME?**

No. In order to ensure verification and accuracy, testing will be performed on site, on the day of the procedure.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF I TEST POSITIVE?**

If you test positive, we will discuss whether the procedure can safely move forward. Unfortunately, it may be determined that we need to reschedule the procedure, and we apologize for any inconvenience this causes. We will ensure that you receive the care you need following a positive COVID-19 test, including follow-up with your Primary Care Provider.

## **WHAT CAN I DO TO MINIMIZE THE RISK THAT MY PROCEDURE WILL BE RESCHEDULED BECAUSE OF A POSITIVE TEST AFTER I'VE ALREADY DONE PROCEDURAL PREPARATIONS?**

If possible, we recommend testing yourself at home immediately before beginning preparations. If you test positive, then call your provider to discuss what your next steps should be and if you need to reschedule. Please be aware that even if the pre-preparation home test is negative, there is the possibility that your test on site immediately before the procedure will be positive.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and NYSDOH suggest precautions you can take in the days before your procedure to prevent becoming infected, especially when the COVID-19 Community Level is Medium or High, including wearing a well-fitted mask indoors in public spaces and avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public where you could be exposed. For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/covid19](http://www.cdc.gov/covid19) or <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov>.

## **I'M FULLY VACCINATED AND BOOSTED, AND I DIDN'T HAVE TO GET TESTED BEFORE MY LAST PROCEDURE. WHY NOW?**

Current variants circulating in the region are able to infect some people who are up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccinations. Based on the latest NYSDOH guidelines, testing immediately before a procedure gives us the greatest confidence that it is safe for both you and our staff to move forward. Should you test positive, it also provides an opportunity to ensure you get the care and treatment you need. Additionally, testing immediately before the procedure is more convenient for the patient, offering a quick result while eliminating the confusion and inconveniences associated with needing to get tested several days ahead of time.

## **MY PROCEDURE IS STILL A COUPLE OF MONTHS AWAY. WILL THIS POLICY STILL BE IN PLACE, AND WHAT HAPPENS IF IT CHANGES?**

Your provider will be sure to let you know about any changes before your procedure. You can also call your provider with any questions you have beforehand. You can also stay up to date on our COVID-19 testing information by visiting <https://www.UVMHealth.org/CVPHCovid19testing>.