

COVID-19 Rapid Testing Guidelines for Inpatient Obstetric Patients – July 30, 2020, 0930

Spectrum Health contact Charmaine Kyle ***Highlight denotes new content**

All obstetric patients being admitted (gestational age > 22 weeks) with anticipated delivery within seven (7) days will be tested for COVID-19. The testing is performed as soon as possible by the nurse after the patient arrives and the decision is made for admission. Nurses can order the COVID-19 PCR in Epic based on protocol.

The rationale for universal testing of all obstetric patients is:

- Reduce the spread of COVID-19 between patients, newborns, and staff
- Appropriately manage the newborn after delivery
- Inform appropriate PPE use (e.g.- adding PPE in asymptomatic positive patients)
- Reduce unnecessary PPE use (e.g.- in COVID-19 neg mom, avoid wearing N95 for bag mask of a newborn)
- Cohort patients appropriately

Prior positive COVID-19 Test – Women who had a prior positive COVID-19 test in the last **90** days should not be retested unless patient has new or worsening symptoms. See [re-testing guidelines](#) for additional clarification.

- Patients should remain in isolation and require appropriate PPE for all spaces including procedural spaces for 10 days **after symptom onset, 24** hours fever-free, and improvement of symptoms, per CDC guidelines. **See [discontinuation of isolation guidelines](#) for additional clarification.**
 - Day 1 is date of testing if asymptomatic
 - Day 1 is date of onset of symptoms if symptomatic

Symptomatic patients (fever, cough, shortness of breath) with no prior COVID-19 test – place in severe respiratory isolation and order COVID-19 PCR. **NP swab for specimen collection.** Select the option “yes, symptomatic” when ordering the test to ensure proper EPIC documentation and isolation initiated. Follow appropriate algorithm for the treatment and management of COVID-19 positive women and newborns ([Women's and Infants Services Algorithm](#)).

Asymptomatic patients with no prior COVID-19 test – order COVID-19 PCR if not done within the last **96** hours prior to admission. **Nares swab for specimen collection.** Patient is not a PUI while awaiting test results.

- If the patient tests positive, place in severe respiratory isolation and follow appropriate algorithm for the treatment and management of COVID-19-19 positive women and newborns ([Women's and Infants Services Algorithm](#)).
- **Asymptomatic patients** who decline testing – patient is not considered a PUI. Standard precautions apply.

Follow up after discharge – Refer to [Women's and Infants Services Algorithm](#) (page 3) to see guidelines for care of the newborn born to women who test positive for COVID-19. Instruct asymptomatic women to **continue** recommended interactions with newborn detailed on the algorithm for **10 days after the positive**

test. Follow the [Provider Guidelines for the Discontinuation of Severe Respiratory Precautions for Patients with COVID-19](#) for guidance on when to stop following recommended interactions if the patient develops symptoms.