

COVID-19 Rapid Testing Guidelines for Inpatient Obstetric Patients – November 16, 2020, 1900

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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 test – place in severe respiratory isolation and order COVID 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 test– order COVID PCR if not done within the **last 120 hours (5 days)** 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 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.