

**COVID-19 Testing Guidance for Pre-Procedural Patients  
Living Outside of Omaha Metro Area  
(Updated 10/27/2020)**



**Overview:** This guidance covers patients whom it has been determined need a COVID-19 test prior having a procedure at any Nebraska Medicine facility. This includes specifically inpatient and outpatient surgery, but may include procedures and services in the following areas:

- Cath/EP Lab Procedures
- Interventional Radiology Procedures
- Endoscopy/GI Procedures
- Ancillary Testing (as defined by Radiology)
- In-clinic Procedures (as otherwise defined)

**Guidelines:**

1. Perioperative and procedural guidelines have been developed by Nebraska Medicine services in partnership with the Division of Infectious Disease. The determination of the need for specific patients required to have pre-procedure testing has been established based on the environment of care where services are to be provided. Complete guidance for COVID-19 screening is on Nebraska Medicine's NOW, [COVID-19 Infectious Disease Protocols](#). Specifically:
  - [Perioperative and Procedural Guidance](#)
  - [Non-Operative and Ambulatory Pre-Procedure Testing Guidance](#)
2. The order for all COVID-19 testing is to be placed in Epic by the physician or other provider ordering the procedure or surgery. The ordering provider is responsible for notifying the patient of the COVID-19 result.
3. Rapid versus standard testing. All efforts will be made to have patients use standard testing. Rapid testing will be reserved for time impacted needs in the hospital setting only and must be approved by Lab.
4. [COVID-19 specimen collections options](#) and guidance are posted on the NOW. Locations are available in and outside of the Omaha Metro Area.
5. Pre-procedural patients living outside of the Omaha Metro Area have two options for specimen collection/testing.
  - Patients unable to be tested within 72 hours prior to surgery in their local area (at an approved provider) will need travel to Omaha and have their specimen collected no less than 24 hours prior to their surgery/procedure.
  - Identify a location where they can be tested in their local area. These have been identified for greater Nebraska. As new potential locations are identified they should be sent to the Surgery Clinic Manager (Stacy Roode). Those locations will be placed on the COVID-19 webpage as they are approved.
    - At Nebraska Medicine influenza is included with COVID-19 testing but it is *not* required as part of pre-procedural screening.
6. Patients coming to Omaha for testing should preferentially be sent to the Swab Drive-thru at UNO for specimen collection. If timing or other issues don't allow, patients may be scheduled at a Phase One Primary Care Clinic location.
7. Ambulatory and Lab will coordinate future operations related to specimen collection for standard (swab) and antibody (when available) testing.
8. There are hotel options listed on Nebraska Medicine website that provide discounts to patients [staying near Nebraska Medical Center](#) or [staying near Bellevue Medical Center](#).