UCSF Health

Asymptomatic Testing Center Information, FAQs and Tip Sheet

In February 2021, UCSF Health launched Asymptomatic Testing Centers (ATC) at Mission Bay, Mount Zion, and Parnassus where patients who do not have any symptoms have the option to receive a rapid COVID test prior to their procedure. The rapid COVID test is an Abbott ID NOW Point of Care Test (POCT) where a shallow nasal sample is collected from the front part of the nostrils unlike the deep PCR test and results in less than 15 minutes. Patient is scheduled for their rapid COVID Abbott ID NOW test **30 minutes** before the start of their normal procedure schedule. The test occurs in the ATC at each campus (locations below).

Since April 5th 2021, the ATCs are also able to perform the traditional deep PCR COVID tests at PARN and MB ATCs

ATC Hours, Locations, Contact Information

Mission Bay: Precision Cancer Medicine Building, 1825 4th Street, 4th Floor

- Phone: 415-514-1406/ Voalte Role: ATC CN – MB C1 Direct Ph: (628) 248-1321
- Hours: 7a-7p M-F

Parnassus: 1 Irving Street, Radiology Science Center, AC 109

- Phone: 415-514-1454/ Voalte ATC RN (PARN Clinic
- Hours: 6a-6p M-F

Mt. Zion: 1600 Divisadero Street, 6th Floor, A-654

- Phone: 415-353-4926
- Hours: 7a-3p M-F

Patient Cohorts Participating in Pre-Procedure Testing at the ATC:

- Cancer Center Infusion and Radiation Oncology Clinics (All sites)
- Pediatrics BMT and Dialysis patients (MB)
- Family House Caregivers (MB)
- Koz House Caregivers (PARN)
- Dialysis patients (MB & MZ)
- Radiology: Some Interventional, Diagnostic and NeuroRadiology Procedures (All sites)
- MZ Dermatology, ANCRE clinics
- Cardiac Cath/ EP/ Stress Test Labs
- Kidney and Liver Biopsy patients admitted at the Post-Procedure Unit at Parnassus
- STAT PCRs needed for same day surgeries, OB procedures, AGPs

Exclusion criteria for ATC
Symptomatic patients, patients with history of COVID exposure, patients under investigation for COVID (PUIs) and those who are in the COVID recovered phase

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Information about the Rapid COVID ID NOW Point Of Care Test (POCT)

About the TEST
-- ABBOTT ID NOW is a rapid RNA detection test and not an antigen test.
-- Unlike RT-PCR, this is a Nucleic Acid Amplication (NAA) test by isothermal amplification.
-- Rapid tests are particularly helpful if the person is tested in the early stages of infection when viral load is generally highest and the individual poses the greatest infectivity risk to others.
-- Because the rapid test is not as sensitive to detection of low viral loads, it remains important to continue to practice social distancing and wear masks even after a negative POC ABBOTT ID NOW result.
-- At a Ct level of 33 or higher, there is decreased sensitivity. While this test is not as sensitive as the PCR, it is a good enough study to catch patient in their infectious stages. A NYU study showed 100% sensitivity when Ct level identified up to 33 though dropped to 54% in pts Ct >33 who were symptomatic. From other studies, we know that the infectivity low at Ct >24-33 (PMID: 32442256, 32342252) based on inability of sample to infect cells in cell culture.
-- TAT is 5 minutes to a positive result and 13 minutes to a negative result. With the cleaning involved between samples, 1 sample can be run every 20 mins on 1 machine (approximately 3 samples per machine per hour). Each ATC will have 4 machines so 12 samples can be run per hour.

Predictive Value of the Test
• Asymptomatic POCT negative has very high negative predictive value so POCT alone is enough.
• Symptomatic POCT negative is NOT sensitive enough, hence we are not using POCT as a way to clear our PUIs in the RSC.
• Symptomatic POCT positive is reliable and POCT alone is used in the ED to diagnose COVID if patient is being discharged. For patients being hospitalized, a confirmatory PCR will still be done.
• Asymptomatic POCT positive, has a false positive rate of ~0.5% and may increase with low community prevalence hence we are doing confirmatory STAT PCR testing.

What happens once a patient is POCT positive?
-- Once POCT +, a STAT confirmatory PCR test is done in the ATC. Patient is PRESUMED POSITIVE and will need novel isolation precaution (FYI, negative pressure room not needed unless AGP is performed) in the health care setting until confirmatory tests result. Pt will be discharged with isolation instructions. There is an automatic COVID positive flag that generates as the POCT results get automatically uploaded into Apex.
      • If POCT pos, PCR pos --> CONGRUENT RESULTS --> Confirmed Positive
      • If POCT pos, PCR neg --> INCONGRUENT RESULTS --> Additional workup for false positive is done with a repeat STAT PCR and serology. ATC MD will review these results with HEIP and HEIP will help update the lab results and COVID flags and inform the specialist of the conclusion

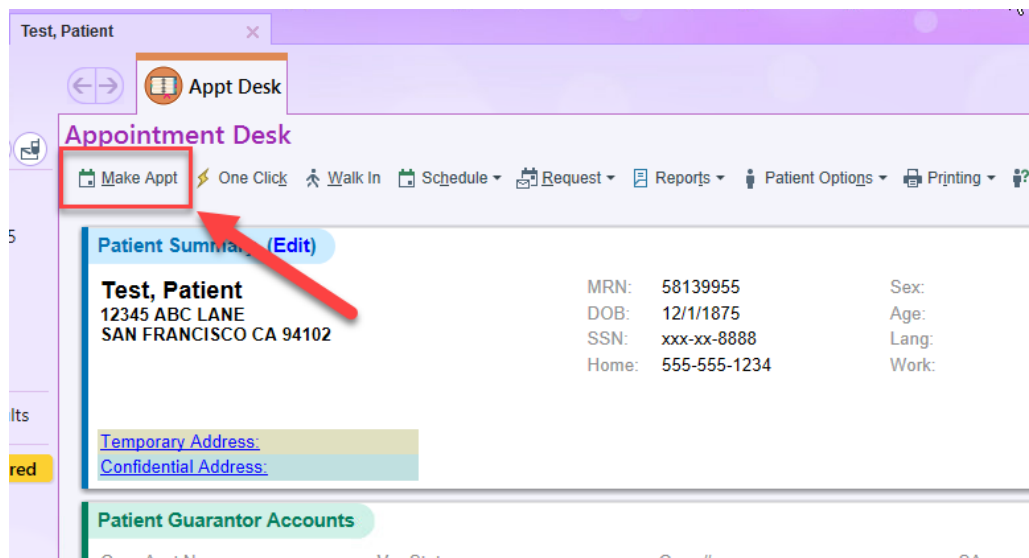# SCHEDULING TIPSHEET & FAQs

Sample script for scheduler:

"Hello, UCSF is requiring you to get COVID testing (prior to your procedure) to maintain safety for you and our staff, and allow us to identify if you are in the early stages of COVID infection before receiving your scheduled treatment/ procedure. It is a rapid test that will take approximately 20 minutes. The sample is collected from just within your nostril and not a deep sample like with the PCR test. We will schedule it thirty minutes before your procedure appointment."

- If patient asks further questions, refer to FAQs below.

1. Why am I being selected? Why are we moving away from the PCR test?
    a. Based on the decreased COVID cases, increasing vaccination of patients and with most of our staff being vaccinated, we are moving for certain procedures (that are non-Aerosol Generating) from the deeper more invasive PCR which needs to be done a few days earlier to the less invasive rapid test that can be done on the day of the procedure.
2. How long will it take for results to come out? Are there concerns for being late to my appointments that day?
    a. Results will be final within 15 minutes of running the sample. We estimate the entire encounter will take about 20 minutes (including the time the test runs). We are scheduling the test to occur 30 minutes prior to the start of your normal day to minimize any delays. For example, if your first appointment for the day is for lab draw, COVID testing would be scheduled 30 minutes prior to your blood draw visit.
3. Where and How will the test be collected?
    a. The Asymptomatic Testing Center (ATC) is located on each campus. You will receive an appointment confirmation with the center's address. Upon arrival, the staff at the ATC will provide you a kit and you will self-swab the front part of your nostrils in a private room. Staff will be available to assist you if needed. Once the swab is complete, the staff will begin to process your results. In most cases, you can wait in the same room until your results are completed.
4. Is this a throat swab or a nasal swab?
    a. The nasal swab will be taken from the front part of your nostrils; it is not the deep nasal swab as in done for PCR.
    b. If you cannot have a nasal swab, then we can offer a throat swab.
5. What is the purpose of the test? Why now?
    a. This test will identify if you have been infected with COVID-19 but are asymptomatic. Rapid tests are particularly helpful if the person is tested in the early stages of infection when viral load is generally highest and the individual poses the greatest infectivity risk to others. UCSF Health now has the infrastructure to offer this test to asymptomatic patients which is why you are encouraged to receive it now.
6. How often will I have to be tested?

     a. Prior to these procedures. If the test is for general surveillance, no more than once a week.

7. Is the testing site safe?
   a. Yes, each testing room allows for social distancing and is monitored to keep you and other patients safe.

8. What happens if I test positive?
   a. If your test comes back positive, you will immediately receive the deeper PCR COVID test for confirmation. Our onsite team will provide instructions to you and communicate with any clinics to let them know you were redirected. Your clinic will decide if your treatment needs to be rescheduled that day. Your positive results will be forwarded to your referring provider.

9. How much does this cost?
   a. We will be billing your insurance. Asymptomatic COVID testing is covered by insurances. If you experience any issues, please reach out to us.

10. Can my approved visitor receive the rapid test as well?
    a. UCSF Health is unable to offer this test to approved visitors at this time.

11. If I've gotten the vaccine, do I still need to get tested?
    a. For now, yes. The general COVID rates in the community, the number of people vaccinated, and the effectiveness of the vaccines against the new variants will determine the need for ongoing testing.

12. I tested positive for COVID-19 a few weeks ago but feel fine now. Should I still be tested?
    a. No, we should not offer this asymptomatic COVID test to patients who tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days. After 90 days has passed from the original positive test, we can start offering this POCT.

Tip Sheet: How to Schedule in the Asymptomatic Test Center

1. From the Appointment Desk, select "Make Appt"
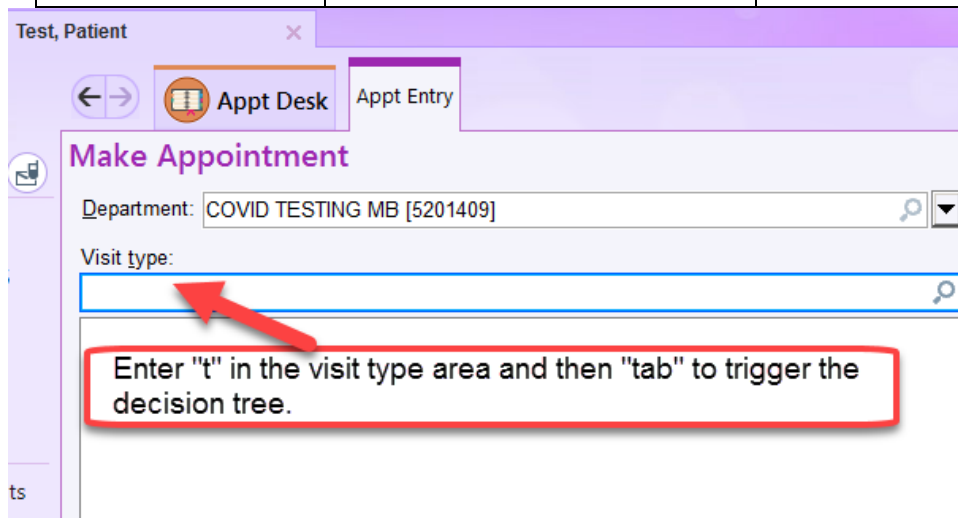
2. Select the correct Asymptomatic Test Center site in the Department field. In the visit type field, enter "t" and then "tab" to trigger the scheduling decision tree.

Campus	DEP	DEP ID
Mission Bay	COVID TESTING MB	5201409
Mount Zion	COVID TESTING MTZ	5201408
Parnassus	COVID TESTING PARN	5201407

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3. Answer the decision tree to schedule. We are currently considered "central schedulers", then say "Continue".

4. Under department, type "all" to pull in all of the resources, and then select search to schedule the appointment.

5.   In Appt notes, use standardized notification to indicate "Type of COVID Test – Destination Clinic – Ordering team" eg. "STAT PCR + POCT – PPU – Kidney Transplant" or "POCT – IR" or "STAT PCR – Bronchoscopy – CATCH"

How to Place a COVID POCT Order

Below are the screen shots of the COVID POCT order. Instructions are available for placing order from a visit encounter. Similar process can be used for an orders only encounter.
-- If a provider or APP is placing the order, please skip steps 3 and 4
-- If these orders need to be placed for a recurring procedure, you only need to order the test once as a standing order. You can place standing orders by clicking the "standing" button and then completing the "Interval" and "count" field, which correlate with *frequency* and *total number of available orders.*

The test code for the order is **POC6237**.

1. Visit Encounter instructions:

2. The default is "FUTURE". If it is a recurring procedure, change the order status to "STANDING" to queue up orders for future appointments or treatments. Choose "Manual" as the release option with an interval of "PRN" and indicate the number of standing orders you would like to queue up.

> Answer any questions with a red stop sign next to them. These are required and you will not be able to sign the order without placing them.

POCT COVID-19 RNA, Qualitative, Rapid   ✔ Accept   ✕ Cancel

Status: Normal | **Standing** | Future

Release: Auto | **Manual** | Interval **PRN** | Coun **52**

Expires: 2/2/2022 | 1 Month | 2 Months | 3 Months | 4 Months | 6 Months | **1 Year**

Priority: Routine | **Routine** | STAT

Class: Point Of Ca

Lab: Resulting Agency: OTHER/PRINT   Collection Date: Collection Time:

Specimen Src: Nasal Swab

Container details   Direct swab testing only; DO NOT place in viral transport media.

Reason: Symptomatic | Other Suspicion for COVID (e.g. Exposure) | **Screening (Asymptomatic and No Specific COVID-19 Suspicion)**
RETEST (Asymptomatic and No Specific COVID-19 Suspicion)

Is patient symptomatic?   Yes | **No**

Is patient hospitalized for confirmed or suspected COVID-19?
Yes | **No** | Unknown

Is patient admitted to ICU for suspected or confirmed COVID-19?
Yes | **No** | Unknown

❶ Does this patient have a planned admission, surgery or aerosol-generated procedure in the next:
Less than 2 Days | 2 Days | 3-4 Days (Preferred) | No Procedure Planned

❶ Is this a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case (contact trace investigation)?
Yes | No | Unknown

Is this the patient's first   Yes | **No** | Unknown
test for COVID-19?

❶ Does the patient reside in a congregate setting (e.g. skilled nursing facility, shelter, dorm)?
Yes | No | Unknown

❶ Is patient employed in   Yes | No | Unknown
healthcare setting?

❶ Name and contact info for provider responsible for positive COVID-19 POCT result:

Process Inst.:   Use nasal/throat collection swab from Abbot ID NOW test kit; contact testing location for assistance if needed.

Direct swab submission only; DO NOT place in viral transport media.

If immediate testing is not possible, the nasal/throat swab can be held in its original package at room temperature (15-30°C) for up to two (2) hours prior to testing

❶ Next Required   ✔ Accept   ✕ Cancel

3. If being ordered by an   col – Cosign Required" in the bottom
   right corner.

❶ Dx Association   ✏ Edit Multiple   Options ▼

Per Protocol - Cosign Required

ⓘ This patient has active treatment/therapy plans.

🏠 After Visit
POCT COVID-19 RNA, Qualitative, Rapid
⚙ ● P Routine

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STREET 📞 415-665-8456

✔ Approve All ✕ Refuse All ☐ Uncheck All

PEND   ✔ SIGN ORDERS

4. If being ordered by an RN, Indicate in the appropriate Ordering Provider:
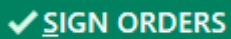
6. Select "Accept", and then click ✓ SIGN ORDERS

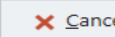7. Add and associate the diagnosis: "Encounter for screening laboratory testing for COVID-19 virus in asymptomatic patient" Z20.828
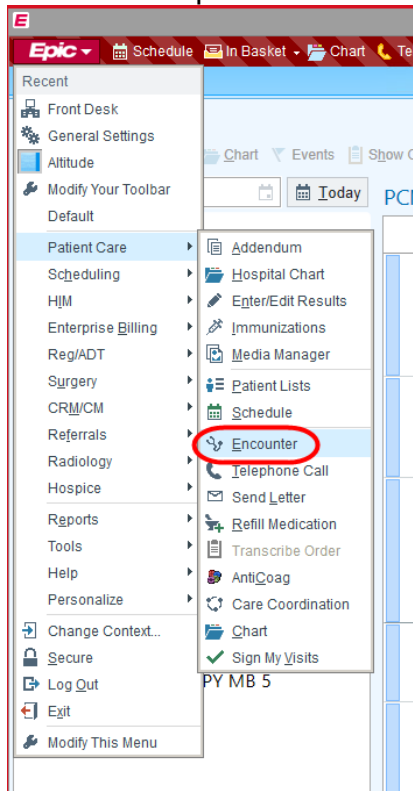

Click "Accept", and then **YOUR ORDER IS SIGNED!**

How to Create an Orders Only Encounter

1. Go to the Epic button > Patient Care > Encounters.

2. Create a new Encounter with a type of "Orders Only" and indicate the appropriate MD as the encounter physician.