

UCSF Health COVID-19 Testing Guidance

Approved populations

Expedited COVID PCR Testing

- ED/inpatient needing surgery/procedure/ study < 24hrs
- Pending discharge to congregate setting directly from ED
- Birth Center
 - 1) Multiparous woman in active labor
 - 2) Any woman in advanced labor (>7cm)
 - 3) Scheduled cesarean with ruptured membranes
 - 4) All other Birth Center patients will have priority testing at China Basin

Process and TAT

Parnassus

- Hand off sample to employee of the core lab L-553 and request expedited testing.
- 8am to 9pm, 7 days/week
 - Test performed in core lab
 - Estimated TAT 4 hrs
 - 9pm-8am
 - Test performed at China Basin
 - Estimated TAT 6-8 hrs

Mt Zion

- Hand off sample to employee of the core lab B235 and request expedited testing.
- 8am to 6pm, 7 days/week
 - Test performed in core lab
 - Estimated TAT 4 hrs
 - 6pm-8am
 - Test performed at China Basin

Mission Bay

If sample is dropped off at MB core lab M2339, give to Microbiology processor or Central Supervisor

Birth center

- Place 'Red Priority' stickers on ALL samples
- If 4 hr TAT needed, hand off sample to the employee of core lab, request in house testing
- Otherwise,
 - 8am to 11pm
 - Test prioritized at China Basin
 - Estimated TAT 5-6 hrs
 - 11pm-8am
 - Test performed at core lab
 - Estimated TAT 4 hrs

ED/Prepare/pre-op/RSC

- If 4 hr TAT needed, hand off sample to employee of core lab, request in house testing

Admission COVID PCR testing

Prioritized populations

- All symptomatic inpatients
- Asymptomatic patients in the ED or ICU

All other populations

- Routine processing

Prioritized populations

- Estimated TAT 6-12 hrs

All other populations

- Estimated TAT 12-24 hrs

Outpatient Populations

Prioritized populations

- Urgent procedure/study <24hrs
- Symptomatic patients, including HCWs
- Congregate living screens

All other populations

- Asymptomatic pre-procedural/surgery/pre-admission testing

Prioritized populations

- Estimated TAT 12-24 hrs

All other populations

- Estimated test TAT 24-36hrs

Test turn around time (TAT) is based on when sample arrives in the lab. Estimates do not account for samples that require repeat runs due to technical issues

Phone calls from providers asking for expedited processing or status updates for individual patient samples take away lab staff from doing testing and cause delays in all results.

If results are time-sensitive, do not call the lab until the full TAT has elapsed.

COVID Clinical Testing Guidance

COVID Adult ID Attending

Via Careweb or
415-443-0190

Peds ID Service

415-443-2384