UCSF Health COVID-19 Testing Guidance

Approved populations

Expedited COVID PCR Testing
- Urgent/emergent same day surgery
- Pending discharge to congregate setting directly from the 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

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

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 and those with urgent procedures/studies <24hrs

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.

For additional testing guidance, refer to the following COVID-19 clinical algorithms:
https://infection-control.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/coronavirus/algorithms