COVID-19: Frequently Asked Questions
Hospitalized Patients with Tests Pending or Being Considered for Testing

Why am I being tested? Is everyone that comes to the hospital tested?
Individuals coming into the hospital with symptoms suggestive of possible COVID-19 should be tested for the virus. Outpatients may be asked to stay home and self-quarantine if symptoms are mild or may be asked to come in for evaluation and testing based on individual risk and level of symptoms. Suggestive symptoms include new cough, shortness of breath, achiness, or fevers. We do not recommend testing people without symptoms. For more information please contact the **UCSF Health COVID-19 hotline** at **415-514-7328**.

If I'm not being tested, when will I be tested? Who will make that decision?
COVID-19 testing requires an order from a healthcare practitioner (physician or advanced care practitioner) and is based on assessment of symptoms.

How "good" is the test? If it returns negative, how certain are you about the result? Will I need a repeat test?
The test is generally accurate during the symptomatic phase of infection. Before symptoms begin or after symptoms go away, the level of the virus may be lower, which can make the test less accurate. Most people do not need repeat testing, but in uncommon cases, your doctors might decide to test again.

How quick do the results return? Do I need to stay in the hospital until the results turn negative?
Time to results may vary based on many factors, currently most test results are available in less than 24 hours. Your doctors and the Department of Public Health will determine when you may return home. Some people can be discharged back to home quarantine before symptoms have completely gone away.

Can my family/friends visit me while I am being tested?
Visitors now are restricted by orders from the San Francisco Department of Public Health.
For more information on visitor restrictions including how UCSF is available to help you please go to UCSF Visitor Assistance.

Where can I get more information on COVID-19 symptoms and testing?
Information on COVID-19 is available at the CDC Website.