

GENERAL FAQs: COVID-19 Screening for Adult Services Patients

How do you define asymptomatic patients?

- Does not have COVID-19 symptoms AND
- Does not have a COVID-19 Recovered banner on Apex (i.e., is not within the 90 days from infection onset)
- Note: Asymptomatic COVID-19 exposed patients should be tested for COVID-19 on the schedules recommended in this [guidance](#)

Which asymptomatic patients require testing?

- Inpatient/pending admission testing:
 - All patients being admitted to the hospital, including 23h stay patients, if they do not meet criteria for symptoms/suspected infection and do not have a COVID-19 Recovered banner on Apex (i.e., are not in the COVID-recovered period).
 - Patients who undergo surgery prior to admission should be tested at the time of admission to the hospital.
 - Transfer patients must have had a test on the day of transfer. If no test was performed or the test was done on the day prior to transfer, the test should be done on arrival to UCSF Health.
- Inpatients should be retested hospital day #3
 - Exceptions:
 - Day 3 is the day of discharge
 - Patient has a current COVID-19 infection (has a ‘COVID confirmed banner’)
 - Patient has a ‘COVID-recovered’ banner
- **Effective June 1, 2023, weekly and for those with roommates, twice weekly, asymptomatic inpatient COVID-19 screening is no longer recommended.**
- Some inpatients may also require testing before discharge to congregate living situations.

Note: Any inpatient who develops symptoms in the hospital should be placed into Novel Respiratory Isolation and tested as a symptomatic patient.

Population	Admission	Day 3	Subsequent
Asymptomatic and not COVID-19 exposed	✓	✓ Except at discharge	No longer recommended: Weekly and for those with roommates, twice weekly
Asymptomatic and COVID-19 exposed	✓	Refer here for testing schedule	
‘COVID-19 recovered’ within 90 days of infection	If asymptomatic, no repeat test recommended. For more information, refer to this guidance .		

What type of test is acceptable?

- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or other nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), including the Abbott ID Now NAAT test

What type of isolation and PPE are needed?

COVID-19 signs/ symptoms/suspicion including exposure?	Signage*	COVID-19 test collection	PPE		Responsible for discontinuing isolation
			No AGP	AGP**	
Yes (on admission or anytime during admission)	Novel Respiratory isolation*	N95/eye protection (or PAPR) + gown/gloves	Fit-tested N95/eye protection (or PAPR) + gown/gloves		Ordering provider
No; initial admission COVID test	Droplet isolation*		Medical mask/eye protection required. Additional PPE may be worn and/or required*		Bedside nurse
No; hospital day #3	Additional signage may be required*		Medical mask required. Additional PPE may be worn and/or required*		Not applicable

* Additional signage and PPE may be required as per transmission-based precautions for other conditions/symptoms and as per standard precautions. Even if not required, N95 and eye protection can be considered as per this [guidance](#).

**AGP = aerosol-generating procedure. For a list of AGPs refer to this [guidance](#).

What if my asymptomatic patient had a test before admission?

Scenario assuming patient remains asymptomatic	Do they need a COVID-19 test?	Isolation pending COVID-19 test result
No test or test within 1-4 days prior to admission	Yes	Droplet precautions
Pending or resulted COVID test at UCSF from day of admission*	No additional test	
'COVID recovered' banner in place (≤90 days since infection)	No (unless symptomatic)	See guidance here

What if my patient has a pending COVID-19 test but needs an emergency procedure?

Pending COVID-19 tests should not delay needed care. Urgent or emergent procedures should proceed even if the COVID-19 test is pending or has not been collected.

