Baylor Medicine COVID-19 Clinic Testing Protocol

Protocol: This protocol provides guidance for in-clinic testing of patients with suspected COVID-19. This protocol should be used after a clinical decision to test for COVID-19 has been made based on current CDC testing criteria AND if patient is clinically stable for in-clinic testing. Testing should be determined by the provider; patients should not be tested solely based upon patient request.

Note: All adult patients should be screened for influenza prior to or during screening for COVID-19.

I. Pre-Testing Process
   A. Prior to testing for COVID-19, all Infectious Disease Emergency Response (IDER) protocols should be followed (available on each Emergency Cart), including:
      1. Place a surgical mask on the patient
      2. Place patients in a private isolation room with door closed
      3. All patients who meet criteria for patient under investigation (Reportable PUI: currently includes travel to affected countries or exposure to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case) and should be reported to the local health department (Houston Health Dept: 832-393-4220). Baylor Medicine Infectious Disease (713-798-2900) can be contacted if needed for guidance.
      4. Place Droplet Precaution signs on door of room and follow all Droplet Precautions. (See Infection Control and Prevention Plan, Policy 26.3.19)
   B. Efforts should be made to minimize the number of faculty and staff exposed to PUI including:
      1. If possible, have one person assess patient, take sample, and counsel patient
      2. If possible, use patient’s personal cell phone to communicate with patient to limit amount of time entering and exiting isolation room.
      3. Bring all necessary supplies into room at one time for sample collection and double bagging

II. Testing Process
   A. Faculty or staff should perform proper donning of personal protective equipment (PPE), including:
      1. Performing proper hand hygiene
      2. Donning of gown
      3. Donning of Respiratory Protection:
         i. If intubating, inducing, or undertaking other potential aerosolization activity: N95 Mask (if user has been fitted) or powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR)
         ii. Otherwise, a surgical mask can be used.
      4. Donning of goggles or face shield
      5. Donning of gloves
   B. Nasopharyngeal specimen collection
      1. Nasopharyngeal specimen will be taken using nasal swab
      2. After sample collection, nasal swab should be placed inside vial
      3. Vial should be placed inside sample bag
      4. Place 1st sample bag into a 2nd sample bag (double bagging)
   C. Faculty or staff should perform proper doffing of PPE, including:
      1. Doffing of gloves

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1 Policy available at: https://intranet.bcm.edu/index.cfm?fuseaction=Display_Policy&Policy_Number=26.3.19
2 Training on proper donning and doffing of PPE is available at: http://bcm.edu/coronavirus-preparedness
3 Nasal swab technique training available at: https://www.bcm.edu/coronavirus-preparedness

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Revised: March 15, 2020
2. Doffing of gown
3. Doffing of mask, PAPR, or surgical mask (should not be removed until fully exiting the room)⁴
4. Doffing of goggles or face shield
5. Performing proper Hand Hygiene

III. Post-Testing Process
A. Sample Management
   1. Printed order should be placed in pocket of the outer bag
   2. Sample should be immediately hand-delivered to the appropriate lab used by your clinic, when available, or follow health department instructions. Lab personnel should be informed that sample requires processing for COVID-19
B. Patient Counseling
   1. Patient counseling will be based on clinical assessment, disease severity, and input from Infectious Disease and the local health department
   2. If the local health department deems that the patient can be sent home, patient should be provided with a surgical mask and advised to wear while commuting home
   3. Patient should be advised to self-quarantine for 14 days, or until negative results are received, or per direction of the health department

⁴ Donning and doffing procedures for PAPR are available in the IDER binder on each emergency cart