

A Publication for Direct Patient Care Providers

Travel to Domestic Hotspots

Health care professionals are needed in certain areas of the country. We also want UPMC fully ready to care for and protect our communities and our patients.

Some UPMC staff want to help in those COVID 19 “hot spots” – and we admire the courage of those partners. We are exploring organized opportunities to support all areas impacted severely by COVID-19 while maintaining our readiness. When those plans develop – including tele-help, materials, or sharing people – we will let all at UPMC know and consider participation.

For the safety of our staff and patients, **we do not encourage staff members to take a non-UPMC assignment or travel** to other states that are a “hot spot” for COVID-19.

If a staff member chooses to go to another area for any travel or work, he or she must contact Employee Health upon return. All staff returning are subject to quarantine, but this will **not** be paid if outside a UPMC assignment. The staff member may use PTO or take the time unpaid. Any staff member who does not check in with Employee Health upon return from travel or does not advise UPMC of this type of assignment/travel is subject to discipline including termination.

Current domestic “hot spots” include: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York (does not include Chautauqua area), New Jersey, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

If you have questions, please connect with your direct supervisor or HR partner.

Masking: A Simple Step for Protection

When you enter many of our UPMC facilities, you will be provided a yellow surgical mask to wear throughout your day. While not required, wearing a UPMC-provided face mask is an important way to protect yourself and others from viral infections. All staff should wear masks at all times, especially in clinical areas, inside our hospitals and facilities.

NEW In addition to hospitals, hospital-based outpatient clinics, Cancer Centers, and Senior Communities, outpatient imaging, rehab (CRS), and resolve mobile crisis response staff are now being provided shift-use masks. Outpatient locations that are non-hospital based are not currently performing body temperature clinical screening upon entry.

Our physician practices have largely shifted to virtual care visits through telemedicine, additionally keeping our staff and patients safe.

There are a few important benefits to masking:

- Protects others from any viruses you could be shedding
- Provides a barrier between your face and any airborne viruses

Remember that a properly worn face mask must cover your mouth *and* nose fully.

For information about appropriate PPE when caring for presumptive, positive, or asymptomatic COVID-19 patients, refer to the [COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment Plan](#).

Shift-Use Masks Can Be Worn Multiple Days

Surgical masks offered to you upon entry to our facilities and used in areas not requiring transmission-based precautions are considered shift-use masks.

NEW Shift masks may be worn for multiple days and shifts in non-clinical areas as long as mask integrity is maintained. Store the mask in a cool, dry place (i.e. a paper bag).

If you need a replacement shift-use mask, follow your local hospital command center guidelines.

[See the shift mask use flier for more information.](#)

UPMC Senior Communities Is Offering Shift Use Masks

Shift-use masks are now being provided to UPMC Senior Communities employees and providers in skilled nursing, assisted living, independent living, and personal care settings.

Per CDC guidelines for long-term care, shift-use masks are **required** to be worn in clinical areas and recommended to be worn elsewhere in the facilities. [View details of our long-term care setting shift-use mask guidelines.](#)

SOFA Score Available in ICU Dashboard

The Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) score is now available in the ICU Dashboard in Cerner. The SOFA quantifies organ dysfunction to help predict outcomes, and it is created by collecting information about the function of the following physiology:

- Pulmonary
- Renal
- Liver
- Cardiac
- Neurologic (mental state)
- Coagulation

Limited Lab Test Menus

To protect our laboratory staff, we must limit tests that can be safely run for patients under investigation for COVID-19. Test capabilities vary by facility. [See the limited lab tests available at each facility on Infonet.](#) **Please be clear about any COVID 19 positive or under investigation patients when ordering any lab or imaging treatment. Together, we can protect each other.**

Reminder: Important Outpatient Test Ordering and Results Process Update

Beginning **today, Monday, April 6**, all COVID-19 outpatient test results will result to the Epic In-Basket of the ordering provider.

Ordering and Scheduling:

UPMC Providers will continue to order a referral for testing through Epic.

Once an order has been placed, UPMC Central Scheduling contact center will call the patient to schedule specimen collection at the location most convenient for the patient. The location where the specimen is collected and tested will affect turnaround time for results.

Test Results:

As with any test result, the UPMC provider's office should call the patient within the same business day of receiving results. Talking points are available to help guide conversations with patients who have [positive test results](#) or [negative test results](#).

Results are delivered to MyUPMC. Results are batch-released at night, so most patients will see results the following day.

- The ordering provider should emphasize **the need for isolation while awaiting results**, and reasons for seeking emergency care. The document "Coronavirus (COVID-19) – What To Expect At Home After Discharge" is available in Clinical References in EpicCare.
- Patients with UPMC Health Plan insurance have access to results in MyHealth.

UPMC AnywhereCare: Patients who are ordered a test in the context of an AnywhereCare visit will be contacted by a member of the virtual care team.

Patients Without a UPMC Ordering Provider: Patients who do not have a UPMC provider on file will be called by the Wolff Center.

UPMC Employees: UPMC Employee Health will continue to call UPMC employees with their results. Positive employee results will still be called by the Wolff ID to the provider.

Developing a Test for Immunity

UPMC is exploring the use of blood tests to determine if a person has antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Such a test could indicate if a person had infection of any type and recovered. However, at present there is little guidance on what it means if someone has antibodies. The current tests do **not** determine if a person is immune to the disease.

We understand the potential value of such antibody-detection tests — for community surveillance, epidemiological tracing and individual diagnosis, among others. These will be more valuable when we learn more about the implications of the results. We are working to find ways to improve the test quality and supplies.

UPMC does not have the capabilities to test the general public at this time. If capacity increases, the first deployment would be to aid evaluation of specific immune based therapies

Updated Inpatient Telemedicine Training Tools

Continue to refer to [Infonet](#) for the latest clinical updates.

- [Inpatient Telemedicine Vidyo Training: Special Consults Nursing](#)
- [Inpatient Telemedicine Vidyo Training: Special Consults Physician](#)