



COVID-19 Headlines

May 11, 2020

■ TESTING YOU FOR COVID-19 INFECTION

We are offering two testing programs to employees who want to know their COVID-19 health status. Both programs are voluntary, and your work status will not be affected by your decision to take or not take the test. More information about our testing programs can be found [here](#) and below.

Antibody Testing

We are offering all faculty, staff, and students an opportunity to be tested for COVID-19 antibodies. A positive test result indicates that, at some point since this pandemic came to our region, you have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. We do not yet know whether having antibodies means you are immune to COVID-19. More information about this test can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

If you are in a front-line role, we will contact you about scheduling your antibody test. Once front-line colleagues have had a chance to take the test, we will also make it available to everyone else.

Nasopharyngeal Swab (PCR) Testing

Faculty, staff, and students who are concerned that they may have SARS-CoV-2 but have not developed symptoms of COVID-19 may request a nasopharyngeal swab test, also known as a PCR test. This test will show if you have active COVID-19 infection. This test is available to all health care workers (including corporate employees) once every 28 days, except for employees who have previously tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies (unless they are experiencing new symptoms of COVID-19). If your PCR test is positive, we will need you to remain away from work for at least 10 days—and possibly longer if you develop COVID-19 symptoms.

PCR testing can be arranged through Employee Health Services via their [EHS Redcap](#) form.

Please note: If you develop new symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or believe you have had a high-risk exposure we still need you to register with EHS via [EHS Redcap](#).

■ PPE RECYCLING

In another sign of progress, we are now able to discontinue our recycling program for N-95 respirators and face shields. All collection boxes will be removed from our sites over the next two weeks.

■ LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS SERVICES

Care of patients with COVID-19 is challenging in so many ways. As a reminder, we have many communication and translation services available to patients and/or family members who prefer to communicate in a language other than English. Assistive devices are also available to people with disabilities to help them communicate with providers and staff during their visit. All services are provided free of charge.

To view a list of assistive devices and services available through the Health System, along with other resources for our patients, please click [here](#).