

MEMORANDUM:

TO: UVMHN- Porter Medical Staff & Care Providers  
FROM: UVMHN - Porter Medical Center Laboratory  
SUBJECT: In house COVID-19 Testing  
DATE: 05/19/2020

Hello all. We are going live tomorrow morning (5/20/2020 at 8am) with our In-House COVID-19 PCR test at Porter Medical Center. Due to the limited availability of test kits nationwide, we currently have capacity to perform only 5-10 tests per day in house. This capacity is subject to change. In accordance with network wide testing practices, patients that will be tested in house at Porter include:

- Inpatients with symptoms concerning for COVID-19
- ED patients to be admitted with symptoms concerning for COVID-19
- ED patient that is requiring discharge to a psychiatric facility
- OB patients in spontaneous labor
- Before emergent procedures

The new COVID order is COVID-ORDER, which will prompt the ordering provider with a box containing multiple descriptors of the patient status, including the above. Only those patients that meet the above criteria will have in house testing performed. Tests not performed at Porter will be sent to UVMHC to be triaged to the most appropriate testing facility as currently performed.

This test will be available 24 hours/day and has a turnaround time of approximately 50-60 minutes. Testing will be performed on nasopharyngeal swabs obtained in appropriate collection media distributed from our laboratory (University transport medium [UTM], viral transport medium [VTM], Phosphate buffered saline [PBS]). Testing will be performed on the Cepheid GeneXpert and is a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) performed by PCR. The test is designed to detect the viral RNA present in the nasopharyngeal tract. A negative result does not entirely exclude COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2), and clinical correlation is required for complete interpretation. If there is concern for a false negative result based on clinical symptoms, clinical findings, or exposure history, continue appropriate isolation and PPE and consider obtaining repeat testing on a lower airway sample (sputum or bronchoalveolar lavage). Feel free to page Dr. Jason Brazelton through the UVM Operator (802-847-2700) if you have concern for a false negative test result.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding while we worked to rapidly validate this new test.