

April 27: COVID-19 Clinical Update

Testing Sites and The Role of Digital Technology and Innovation

This daily communication is intended to facilitate the sharing of important clinical information during the COVID-19 healthcare crisis and to help respond to questions from physicians across Northwestern Medicine.

In today's issue, you will find updates about opening alternative testing site locations and virologic and serologic testing for COVID-19. You will also learn about the role of Digital Technology and Innovation to manage the COVID-19 pandemic from Chief Innovation Executive Daniel Derman, MD, and Medical Director of Telehealth Richard Bernstein, MD, PhD. NM is actively working to enhance testing capability, expand telehealth, and enable the remote monitoring of patients.

ALTERNATIVE TEST SITES

NM continues to expand SAR-CoV-2 testing capacity across the system. Last week we launched pre-procedure testing; and this week we will open ambulatory tests sites in seven locations. Testing will be available across NM for the following individuals:

- Symptomatic inpatients and employees
- Symptomatic outpatients who meet Testing Criteria on [NMI](#) and [Physician Forum](#) (see Algorithms).
- Symptomatic patients who are receiving oncology, transplant or dialysis treatments
- Patients scheduled for aerosol generating procedures, such as surgeries and gastrointestinal, obstetric, interventional radiology and Cath Lab procedures

To get tested, patients and employees must have an order from their NM physician or be referred from the NM COVID-19 Hotline at 312.47COVID. Physicians will not place the order; they can send an In Basket message to the covidnursingtriage pool. For more information, view Testing Criteria on [NMI](#) and [Physician Forum](#) (see Algorithms).

Testing for individuals who meet the above criteria will be available this week at the locations below.

NM Testing Locations

Hospital	Location Details	Address
Central DuPage Hospital	ILI Quick Care Area inside ED entrance	25 N. Winfield Rd., Winfield
Delnor Hospital	Drive-through tent in Family Medicine Residency Clinic parking lot	300 N. Randall Rd., Geneva

	(Employees should continue to use ED extension)	
Huntley Hospital	ED	10400 Haligus Road, Huntley
Kishwaukee Hospital	ILI tent outside the ED	1 Kish Hospital Drive, DeKalb
Lake Forest Hospital	ED (South Entrance)	1000 Westmoreland Road, Lake Forest
McHenry Hospital	ED	4201 Medical Center Drive, McHenry, IL
Northwestern Memorial Hospital	Lavin Family Pavilion Drive – Erie Entrance (Employees should continue to use REC via Ontario Entrance)	259 East Erie Street, Chicago

IDPH TESTING UPDATE

The IDPH updated [testing guidelines](#) to enable anyone with COVID-19 symptoms or who meet the below criteria to get a test without a physician order:

- Have COVID-19 symptoms (such as cough, shortness of breath and fever), AND are at risk due to:
 - Contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19
 - A compromised immune system or serious chronic medical condition
- Work in a healthcare facility, correctional facility or serve as first responders
- Support critical infrastructure, such as workers in grocery stores, restaurants, pharmacies and factories

The test result is communicated directly to the patient, and patients who test positive will be encouraged to contact their medical provider. If your patients share their results with you, mark them as unsolicited and update their record in Epic accordingly. If the result is positive, contact Infection Prevention to add appropriate flags to the patient's chart.

NM SEROLOGIC TESTING UPDATE

The ability to test for antibodies may be necessary in the process to reactivate our clinical facilities, although it has limitations, according to the Infectious Diseases Society of America (ISDA). A [recent ISDA statement](#) reads "While extrapolation from other coronavirus infections allows us to be optimistic that detection of an IgG response will likely confer at least some protection to most people, **we have no direct evidence of this for SARS-CoV-2.**"

NM is investigating [several platforms for serologic testing](#). We have validated the Abbott Architect platform with an IgG test, and a workgroup has been formed to prioritize its use. The initial population for testing will be symptomatic inpatients who are presumed positive but are SARS-CoV-2 test negative by a nucleic acid amplification test. Future populations for testing including the NM healthcare workforce, are currently under evaluation. The test will be available in Epic on Tuesday, April 28 and requires an ID consult.

NM does not recommend sending patients to another facility for antibody testing. However, if a patient provides a serology test result from an outside facility, their result should be treated as unsolicited and entered into Epic accordingly. You do not need to contact Infection Prevention about the result in this case.

LAB INNOVATION

In response to severe shortages of lab supplies, NM Laboratory leadership partnered with Northwestern University McCormick School of Engineering and Mathews Center for Cellular Therapy to produce a viral transport medium and 3-D print nasopharyngeal swabs, reducing our reliance on commercial vendors.

TELEHEALTH ENCOUNTERS

We continue to expand telehealth encounter support for patients, physicians and care providers.

- Telehealth visits have expanded to include all eligible care providers including CNAs, licensed clinical social workers, registered dietitians, nutrition professionals, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, audiologists, clinical psychologists and other mental health professionals.
- Microsoft Teams is the preferred platform for telehealth encounters. Physicians may also use FaceTime, WhatsApp, Doxy.me and Doximity Video applications to connect with patients.

For more telehealth information, view tip sheets and FAQs on [NMI](#) and on [Physician Forum](#).

TELEMONITORING

To maximize the safety of our patients, physicians, staff and visitors, and conserve PPE supplies, NM is working with Whiteboard Coordinator to develop a monitoring system using cameras throughout NM hospitals for the following applications:

- **Entrance screening:** Infrared cameras have been installed at all staff and visitor entrances in hospital locations to detect body temperature and alert screening staff of those with a fever.
- **Patient room monitoring:** More than 450 cameras have been installed in COVID-19 patient rooms, and another 300 will be installed by the end of April. The cameras stream video to designated monitoring stations to enable physicians and nurses to check on patients without donning PPE.

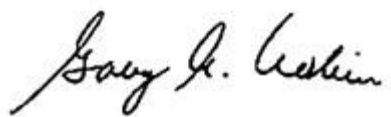
REMOTE VENTILATOR SUPPORT

An interdisciplinary group of representatives from BioMed, Respiratory Therapy, IT, Compliance, Pulmonary/Critical Care and Anesthesia, working with Etemadi Research Group and Medtronic, has enabled Northwestern Memorial Hospital to be the first hospital in the world to support remote control and viewing of Puritan Bennett ventilators. This allows respiratory therapists, nurses and physicians to significantly reduce exposure to COVID-19 while taking care of patients in the ICU.

REMOTE PATIENT MONITORING

Beginning this week, NM will roll out Masimo SafetyNet disposable monitoring devices to remotely monitor pulse oximetry, respiratory rate and heart rate of patients in NM COVID-19 patient care units. The remote sensors are also being evaluated as an enhancement to the current COVID-19 Patient Monitoring Program for patients who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19, are isolated at home, and require a higher level of monitoring.

Thank you for your extraordinary dedication and collaboration in providing exceptional care to our patients and supporting one another during this unprecedented pandemic. If you have questions or would like to discuss innovative approaches to care please contact Dr. Derman or email us at covid-19md@nm.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary A. Noskin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" and last name "Noskin" clearly legible.

Gary A. Noskin, MD
Senior Vice President, Quality
Northwestern Memorial HealthCare
Chief Medical Officer
Northwestern Memorial Hospital