COVID-19 Flag Alerts with Updates

Update Go Live Date	March 23, 2021
Impacted Locations	All NM Hospitals
Intended Audience	Inpatient RN and Infection Prevention

Two updates have been made to the COVID-19 Flag Alerts and infection flag behaviors to assist in the visibility of a patient's COVID-19 lab results and appropriate isolation status updates.
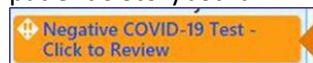
Review the Updates

- For admitted patients whose COVID-19 infection flag expires while admitted, physicians will be prompted with a 20-day result review alert. Once the physician addresses the alert, the Positive Infection flag will update.

- For any Immunocompromised patients (including readmissions) whose COVID-19 infection flag expires, physicians will be prompted with a 20-day result review alert. Once the physician addresses the alert, the Positive Infection flag will update.
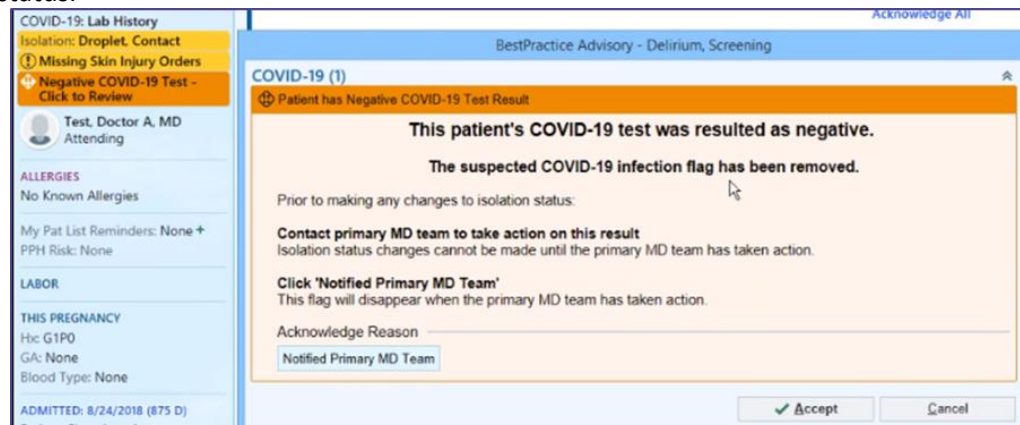
Storyboard flag summary

- When a patient's COVID-19 test result is reported as negative:

  a. The Suspected flag is automatically removed and

  b. Storyboard will display a review notification and

  c. Isolation orders cannot be discontinued until physician alert has been acted on.

When COVID-19 test result comes back negative, a negative COVID-19 result a flag will appear on the patient's Storyboard.
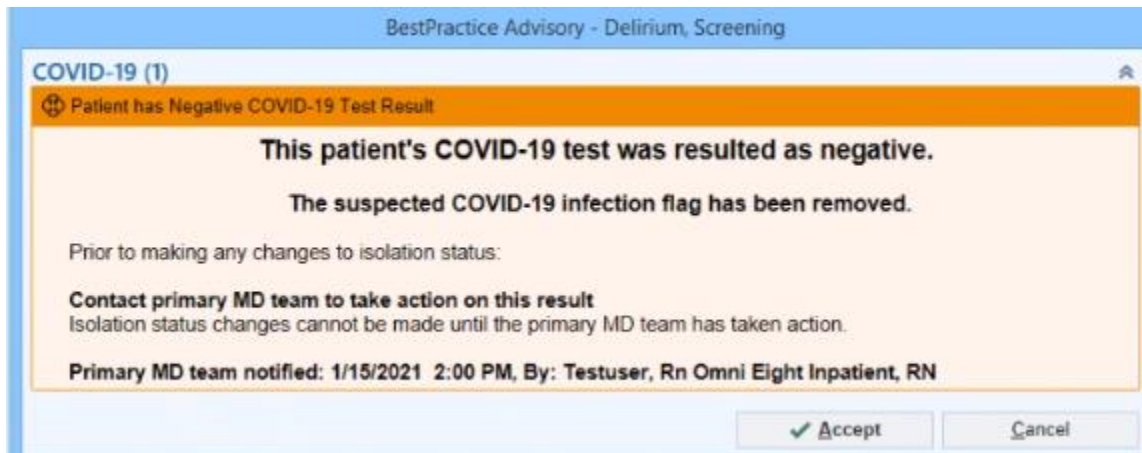

The RN can click to review and Acknowledge the flag by selecting Notified Primary MD Team.

- Select notified MD team to let others know the team has been contacted.
- The Provider must act on the flag before any changes can be made to the patient's isolation status.
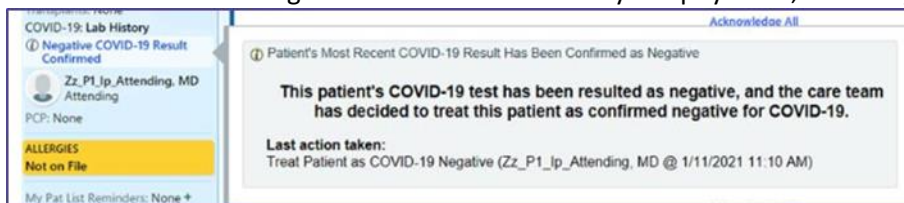
Once the RN has Notified Primary MD Team, the date and time and who notified will display in the hover bubble.

CRITICAL STEP: This BPA flag will remain on the patient's storyboard until an action is taken by the Physician thus preventing the early removal of isolation prior to a lab status review.

When the COVID-19 Negative status is confirmed by the physician, the Storyboard flag will update.

- Hover over the Negative COVID-19 Result Confirmed flag to view the user who treated as COVID-19 Negative.

Review COVID-19 Suspected Infection Flag

If a patient is suspected as having COVID-19, a Suspected COVID 19 flag will auto populate on the patient's chart. This is viewable where other COVID related infection flags are viewed (patient list, storyboard, unit manager, and summary reports).

CRITICAL STEP: This will occur if the clinical picture is consistent with COVID-19 despite negative test results. This flag would be used for patients who are not being retested for COVID-19, but are being treated as if they are positive.

Timing of the COVID-19 flag behaviors, lab results and isolation updates will improve:
- Visibility and awareness for COVID-19, Suspected COVID-19, or Presumed Positive COVID-19 to staff caring for the patient.
- COVID-19 lab result monitoring and isolation monitoring for Infection Preventionists.
- Timeliness of Initiating or Discontinuing COVID-19 Isolation for the patient.
- Appropriate use or discontinuation of use for PPE.

Reference:

COVID-19 flags are visible on the patient's Storyboard and driven by lab results and addressed Physician BPA alerts.

 When the COVID-19, Suspected COVID-19 lab is ordered, a flag appears in Storyboard, the appropriate isolation precautions associated with the order will automatically be visible in Storyboard.

- **Suspected COVID-19:** Applied automatically when COVID-19 lab test is ordered for all patients, except outpatients being screened prior to outpatient procedures, and automatically removed upon final results of a COVID-19 lab test for both positive and negative results.
- **COVID-19:** Applied automatically with positive COVID test result.
  - It expires automatically after 20 days.
    - For admitted patients whose COVID-19 infection flag expires whilst admitted, physicians will be prompted with a 20-day result review alert. Once the physician addresses the alert, the Positive Infection flag will update.
    - For any Immunocompromised patients (including readmissions) whose COVID-19 infection flag expires, physicians will be prompted with a 20-day result review alert. Once the physician addresses the alert, the Positive Infection flag will update.
- **COVID-19 (Suspected)**: Ordered through the Physician / APP negative COVID-19 BPA process. Follows the same process for removal as COVID-19.
- If the physician wants a change to either the Suspected COVID-19 or COVID-19 Positive flags, the physician will contact Infection Prevention.
  - Suspected COVID-19 flags can be removed by the physician.