

May 26: COVID-19 Clinical Update

Ambulatory Testing

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.

NEW AMBULATORY TESTING CRITERIA

Last Friday, May 22, Northwestern Medicine updated testing criteria to allow all outpatients who have COVID-19-related symptoms to get tested. Ambulatory physicians can place an order in Epic for the SARS-CoV-2 test at [Alternate Test Sites](#).

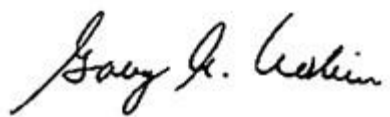
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines COVID-19 symptoms as the following:

- Cough (new or worsening)
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Chills
- Loss of smell or taste in the last 14 days
- Muscle pain
- Fever
- Vomiting or diarrhea

To find the most up-to-date testing information, refer to the documents below and on Testing Resources pages on [Physician Forum](#) (*no login*) and [NMI](#) (*login required*):

- [Testing Guidelines Dashboard](#): Defines criteria for ILI symptoms and approved guidelines for testing and retesting.
- [Alternate Testing Site locations and hours](#): As we expand testing capabilities, check the [Testing Resources page](#) often for the latest list of testing locations and hours.
- [Ambulatory Order Placement and Results follow-up](#) tip sheet

Thank you for your extraordinary dedication and collaboration in providing exceptional care to our patients and supporting one another during this unprecedented crisis. If you have any questions or would like to share the story of an NM hero, please 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