

Clinical Brief #15 | COVID-19

Developed Monday, April 13, 2020

INFORMATION FOR ALL CLINICIANS

Clinical leaders are providing frequent updates to all clinicians in an effort to keep you current about AdventHealth's response to COVID-19. The following topics are included in this brief:

- COVID-19 Testing
- MicroGenDX Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Tests and Use of Saliva for Testing
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Surgical Procedures, Cardiac Catheterizations and Endoscopies
- Inpatient Telehealth
- Hospitalist Brief #5

5:00 pm April 13 COVID-19 Situation Report

*Based on COVID-19 Power BI Dashboard data

COVID-19	CFD	WFD	MSD
Total Confirmed	873	100	123
Currently Inpatient	93	24	20
Total Negative Tests	10,403	1,426	992
Current PUI	55	60	28

COVID-19 Testing

Antibody testing is a very important tool in the management and epidemiological control of a pandemic. Many commercial laboratories in the US and abroad are developing and rolling out COVID-19 antibody testing. This week AdventHealth hospital laboratories have limited ability to collect and send out tests to their reference labs while they continue to work on building their in-house antibody testing platform. Send-out antibody testing is currently limited to use in conjunction with inconclusive or discordant results; for example, negative PCR result in a patient highly suspicious for COVID-19. As antibody testing capacity increases, we anticipate the expansion of testing criteria to include other groups.

PCR continues to be considered the gold standard for viral diagnosis based on the ability to detect low levels of the virus. Labs use two pathways for PCR testing: in-house testing platforms (GenMark® ePlex®, Diasorin Simplexa®, Cepheid®, GeneXpert®) and a send-out process to MicroGenDx Laboratories.

- Both pathways have demonstrated excellent testing performance during the validation process (100 percent sensitivity and 100 percent specificity).

- On all platforms, the laboratory confirmed no interference or false positives from alternate respiratory viruses.

MicroGenDX PCR Tests and Use of Saliva for Testing

- The test sample for MicroGenDX can be from nasopharyngeal (NP) swab, sputum or saliva.
- MicroGenDX planned the collection technique around sputum and saliva to prevent reliance on supply materials currently in shortage, such as swabs and viral transport media.

Saliva specimens can be provided easily, and since no invasive procedures are required, the collection of saliva can greatly minimize the chance of exposing health care workers to COVID-19. In some patients, coronavirus was detected only in saliva but not in NP aspirate. Saliva has also been used in screening for respiratory viruses among hospitalized patients without fever or respiratory symptoms. [The validation summary](#) for the MicroGenDX test exceeds the requirements of the Federal Drug Administration's (FDA's) Emergency Use Authorization.

PPE for Surgical Procedures, Cardiac Catheterizations and Endoscopies

Updated safety guidance for all procedures performed in the operating room, endoscopy and interventional cardiology based on community spread of COVID-19 and recent recommendations from specialty societies:

- For those health care workers in the room where surgery or procedures are being performed, N95 respirators should be worn in addition to other appropriate PPE.
- For ear, nose and throat procedures that may be at a higher risk due to high bioburden of aerodigestive tract, a N95 respirator or Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR), if available, is recommended.

Inpatient Telehealth

Included below is the workflow on implementing telehealth in the inpatient setting, along with the resolution for Medical Executive Committees (MECs) and Boards.

As shared last week, AdventHealth has launched a [Telehealth Resource Site](#) designed to share the virtual care options available in our network.

- The site answers basic questions and helps determine which platform might work for a specific care setting.
- Supporting documentation and training documents are also available to help you rapidly adopt telehealth in your appropriate setting, including the Inpatient Telehealth Toolkit, which houses the COVID-19 clinical guidelines of inpatient visits.

Please see suggested [guidelines](#) to help determine if the use of telehealth is appropriate for your patient. At least one in-person thorough physical examination by the attending physician or other clinician on the case is expected every 24 hours.

Hospitalist Brief #5

This [Monday's brief for hospitalists](#) includes information about telehealth resources and tips for physician well-being.

[Clinical Briefs](#) | [Hospitalist Briefs](#)

We encourage you to take care of yourself, your families and each other as we move through this ongoing response to COVID-19.

GREATER AS A WHOLE | RESOURCES

Online

[Novel Coronavirus Information Site](#)

[AdventHealth Coronavirus Website | Videos | Blog](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

Department of Health: [Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Kansas, Kentucky, Texas, Wisconsin](#)

Worldwide Coronavirus Data: [Johns Hopkins' global cases webpage](#)

By Email:

coronavirusquestions@adventhealth.com

By Phone:

COVID-19 Hotline: 1-877-847-8747