



## Interim Guidance on Use and Interpretation of Patient Home Antigen Testing for COVID-19

As home antigen tests are more available for COVID-19 testing in the community setting, patients are presenting with antigen results. This guidance provides a framework about when to accept these results, when confirmatory PCR tests are required, and how to time duration of isolation precautions.

### HOME COVID-19 ANTIGEN TESTING ACCEPTABILITY CRITERIA & ISOLATION PRECAUTIONS

- **Acceptable Home Antigen Test:** Accept a **POSITIVE** home antigen test result, *if the patient is able to provide a reliable history and approximate date of positive test or symptom onset, and document in patient's medical record.*
- For acceptable results, note date of positive home antigen test or symptom onset, whichever is earlier, and follow appropriate isolation precautions as per COVID-19 status (COVID-19 Positive or Prior COVID-19) using guidelines below:
  - [Interim COVID-19 Definitions and Isolation Precautions in the Inpatient Setting](#)
  - [Interim COVID-19 Definitions and Isolation Precautions in the Ambulatory Clinic or Urgent Care/ED Setting](#)
- Confirmatory COVID-19 PCR may be obtained at any time per clinician discretion.
- **Unacceptable Home Antigen Test:**
  - Do **not** accept a positive home antigen test result, if the patient is unable to provide a reliable history.
- Additional specific criteria by setting and symptom status are included below.

### SYMPTOMATIC PATIENTS, ANY SETTING

- **Accept a POSITIVE home antigen test performed within the prior 10 days in a symptomatic patient. No confirmatory COVID-19 PCR is needed, *if Acceptability Criteria (above) are met.*** Note: this covers all settings including admission and pre-procedure testing.
- **Perform COVID-19 PCR if:**
  - Patient with new symptoms even if [Prior COVID-19 status](#) (positive test for COVID-19 obtained 11-90 days prior),
  - Home antigen test result was negative, *or*
  - Unacceptable home antigen test per criteria above.

### ASYMPTOMATIC PATIENT, ADMISSION TESTING

- **Accept a POSITIVE home antigen test performed within the prior 11-90 days in a previously symptomatic or exposed patient. No confirmatory COVID-19 PCR is needed, *if Acceptability Criteria (above) are met.***
- **Accept a POSITIVE home antigen test performed within the prior 10 days in an exposed patient. No confirmatory COVID-19 PCR is needed, *if Acceptability Criteria (above) are met.***
- **Perform COVID-19 PCR if patient:**
  - Has **no** history of COVID-19 in the prior 90 days, including patients with:
    - Planned admission post-procedure, *or*
    - Negative home antigen test prior to admission.
  - Has an unacceptable home antigen test per criteria above.

~Continued on next page~



### **ASYMPTOMATIC PATIENT, PRE-PROCEDURE TESTING**

- Accept a **POSITIVE** home antigen test performed **within the prior 11-90 days** in a previously symptomatic patient ([Prior COVID-19 status](#)). No confirmatory COVID-19 PCR is needed, *if Acceptability Criteria (above) are met.*
- All other patients (*including inpatients*) undergoing **high risk procedures** require a pre-procedure COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours prior to the procedure, or within 96 hours if needed to accommodate a long weekend (unless [Prior COVID-19 status](#))

### **ASYMPTOMATIC PATIENT, ALL OTHER SETTINGS**

- Accept a **POSITIVE** home antigen test performed in a previously symptomatic or exposed patient meeting Acceptability Criteria (above). Duration of isolation determined by date of positive test.