

BILH Interim Guidance on Pre-procedure Testing and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the Era of COVID-19

GUIDELINE STATEMENT

This document provides updated guidance for both operative and non-operative procedures related to pre-procedural viral testing for COVID-19 and PPE.

GUIDELINE(S) FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1. **All patients should be screened for symptoms 24-72 hours prior to procedure** including:
 - a. Fever ≥ 100.4 or feverishness
 - b. Chills
 - c. Body aches
 - d. Cough
 - e. New onset shortness of breath, or change from baseline
 - f. Sore throat
 - g. New onset diarrhea, or change from baseline
 - h. Loss of smell or taste

2. **COVID-PCR Testing** (See [COVID-19 Status](#) definitions)
Please see [BILH Indications for Patient COVID-19 PCR Testing before Operative and Non-Operative Procedures algorithm](#) for more details
 - a. **COVID-19 PCR required for:**
 - i. **Symptomatic patients:** Any patient with ≥ 1 symptom from #1 above should be tested using COVID-19 PCR *unless they had a positive COVID-19 viral test (either a positive home antigen test meeting [acceptability criteria](#) or a positive COVID-19 PCR) in the prior 10 days*
 - ii. **Planned admission post-procedure**
 - iii. **Planned [high risk procedure](#)**
 - b. **COVID-19 PCR retesting should not routinely be performed for:**
 - i. Asymptomatic patients with a positive COVID-19 PCR in the 90 days prior to the planned procedure or admission (meet criteria for [Prior COVID-19 status](#))
 - ii. Patients experiencing [COVID-19 rebound](#) symptoms after improvement (generally 2-8 days after initial recovery, with or without treatment)
 - Note that patient should be placed back on isolation and returned to [COVID-19 Positive status](#). The start date for isolation should be reset to that of new symptom onset.
 - c. Testing at clinician discretion may be performed at any time
 - d. Note that COVID-19 PCR required within 24-72 hours before procedure (individual providers may accept up to 96 hours to cover holidays/long weekends) or immediately pre/post-procedure as equivalent of admission testing
 - e. Please see [BILH Indications for Patient COVID-19 PCR Testing before Operative and Non-Operative Procedures algorithm](#) for more details



3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- a. Respiratory protection should be used based on transmission risk of the procedure as outlined in [BILH Interim Categorization of Procedures by Risk of Transmission of COVID-19](#) or symptoms.
 - i. See table below for details.
 - ii. Note that use of an N95 respirator is required for any patient undergoing a [high-risk procedure](#), regardless of COVID-19 PCR result.

Required Respiratory Protection by Procedure Category

Procedure Category	Patient Vaccination Status		
	Up-to-date with COVID-19 Vaccination or Prior COVID-19 status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asymptomatic • Symptomatic with negative COVID-19 PCR (and no longer COVID-19 Suspect status) 	Not Up-to-date with COVID-19 Vaccination or Unknown Vaccination Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asymptomatic 	Any vaccination status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Positive status (not meeting criteria for discontinuation of isolation for patients with COVID-19), with or without symptoms • COVID-19 Suspect status
High Risk	N95 required	N95 required	N95 required*
Potential Concern	Surgical mask		
No/Low Risk	Surgical mask		

*Wait time required after procedure. Refer to [CDC recommendations based on Air Changes per Hour \(ACH\)](#).

Note that "N95" refers to N95 respirator or higher level of respiratory protection (e.g., elastomeric respirator, PAPR)

- b. Eye protection: Required for all healthcare personnel in the room during any procedure
- c. Gowns: For patients who are [COVID-19 Positive, COVID-19 Suspect or COVID-19 Quarantine status](#), a gown should also be worn, or as indicated by Standard Precautions