



Mount Sinai Health System Preprocedure COVID-19 PCR Testing Guideline

REVISION 6/10/20

Updates Highlighted in Green

Background: The following provides preprocedure screening and testing strategies for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) using the SARS COVID 2 RNA PCR (COVID-19 PCR) test in the main OR, major procedural areas, and procedural locations that require at least moderate sedation. The working premise is that the COVID-19 status of patients presenting for procedures will guide decisions that will improve patient outcomes, help inform them of the risks versus benefits, and reduce provider risk.

This policy is subject to change based upon updated information from the CDC, NYS Department of Health, and other sources.

I. General Principles:

A. Patient Safety

1. Pre-procedure COVID-19 PCR testing should be performed on patients undergoing procedures in the main operating rooms and major procedural areas (cardiac catheterization, interventional radiology, electrophysiology, endoscopy), and procedural locations that require at least moderate sedation to identify patients who may be in the pre-symptomatic phase or have an asymptomatic COVID infection.
2. **If the patient has a positive COVID-19 PCR test within 90 days of the procedure, do not retest.**
3. COVID-19 PCR testing should be performed optimally two days, but no more than three days before the scheduled procedure, unless the patient has a previously positive COVID-19 PCR test result with resolution of symptoms, as described in Figure 1 below. Appointments at COVID-19 testing sites are available for testing on Saturday for Monday cases and Sunday for Tuesday cases. In most cases, testing two days prior to the day of the procedure is the optimal time needed for a test result turn-around time that allows for discussion among medical teams (surgery, anesthesiology, medical consultants) and the patient to develop a plan that may include procedural delay **before arrival on the day of surgery.**
4. Procedures should not be performed in patients who have a new positive COVID-19 PCR test or active symptoms unless the procedure is emergent or there is a medical need to proceed.
5. If the patient had a prior positive COVID-19 PCR test, with or without symptoms, delay the procedure until ≥ 14 days from the PCR test with last 3 days of being afebrile (temperature < 100 F) off antipyretics and significant resolution of respiratory symptoms. Do not retest.
6. In the case of an emergency, preoperative COVID-19 PCR testing may not be possible in which case testing should be performed as soon as it is safe to do so (consider rapid test in the OR/procedure room).
7. **There may be rare circumstances that are not addressed in the testing algorithm described in Figure 1. Please collaborate with local Infection Prevention Departments to develop a plan on how to proceed.**

B. Staff Safety

1. Wearing appropriate PPE decreases the risk of exposure.
2. When wearing appropriate PPE properly, the risk for exposure is low, even when performing an aerosol generating procedure or procedures around the face.

C. Antibody testing

1. Widespread antibody screening of patients is not recommended at this time.
2. **If the patient undergoes antibody testing through the Mount Sinai Hospital laboratory and has detectable antibodies against SARS CoV-2, they may be immune from future infection. The surgical team should consult with the local Infection Prevention department to determine if the patient can undergo the procedure before the mandatory 14-day waiting period even if the COVID-19 PCR test is still positive.**

Figure 1: COVID-19 PCR Preprocedure Testing Algorithm

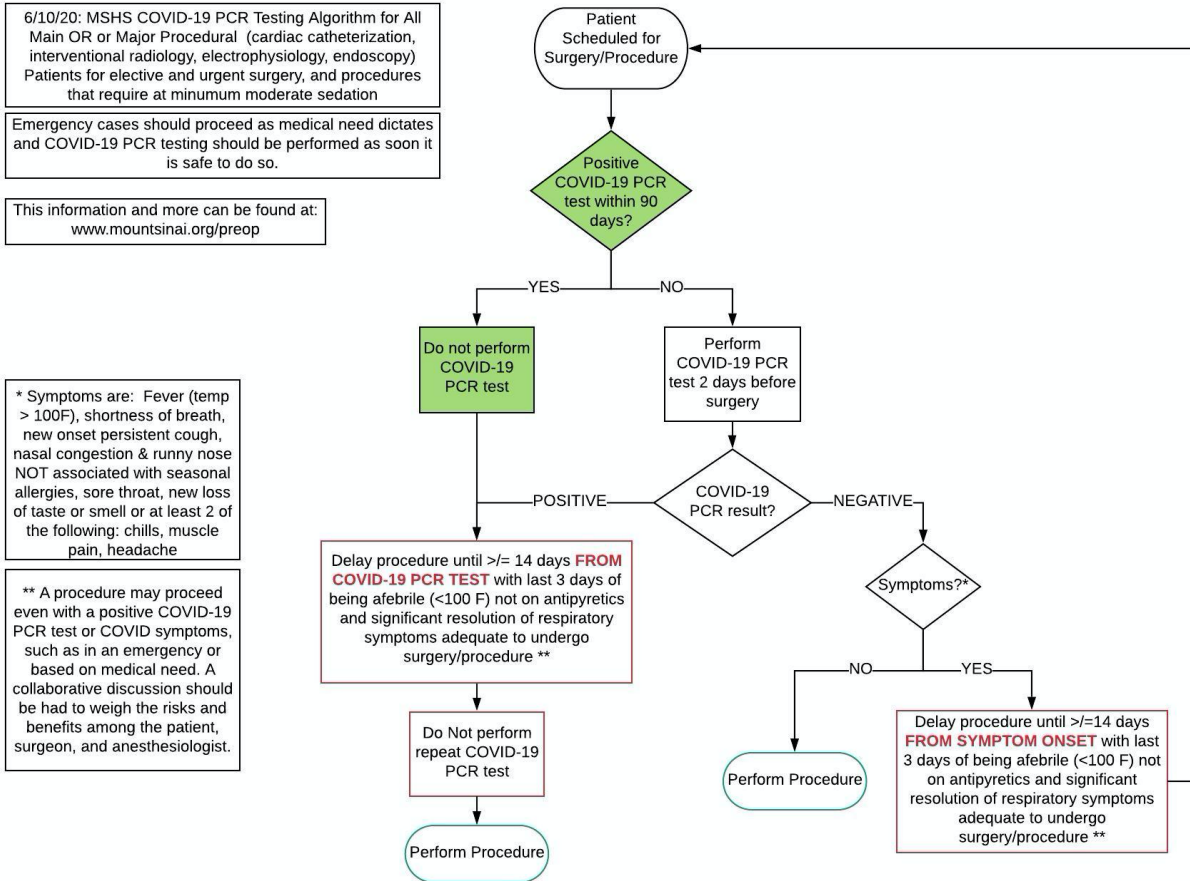
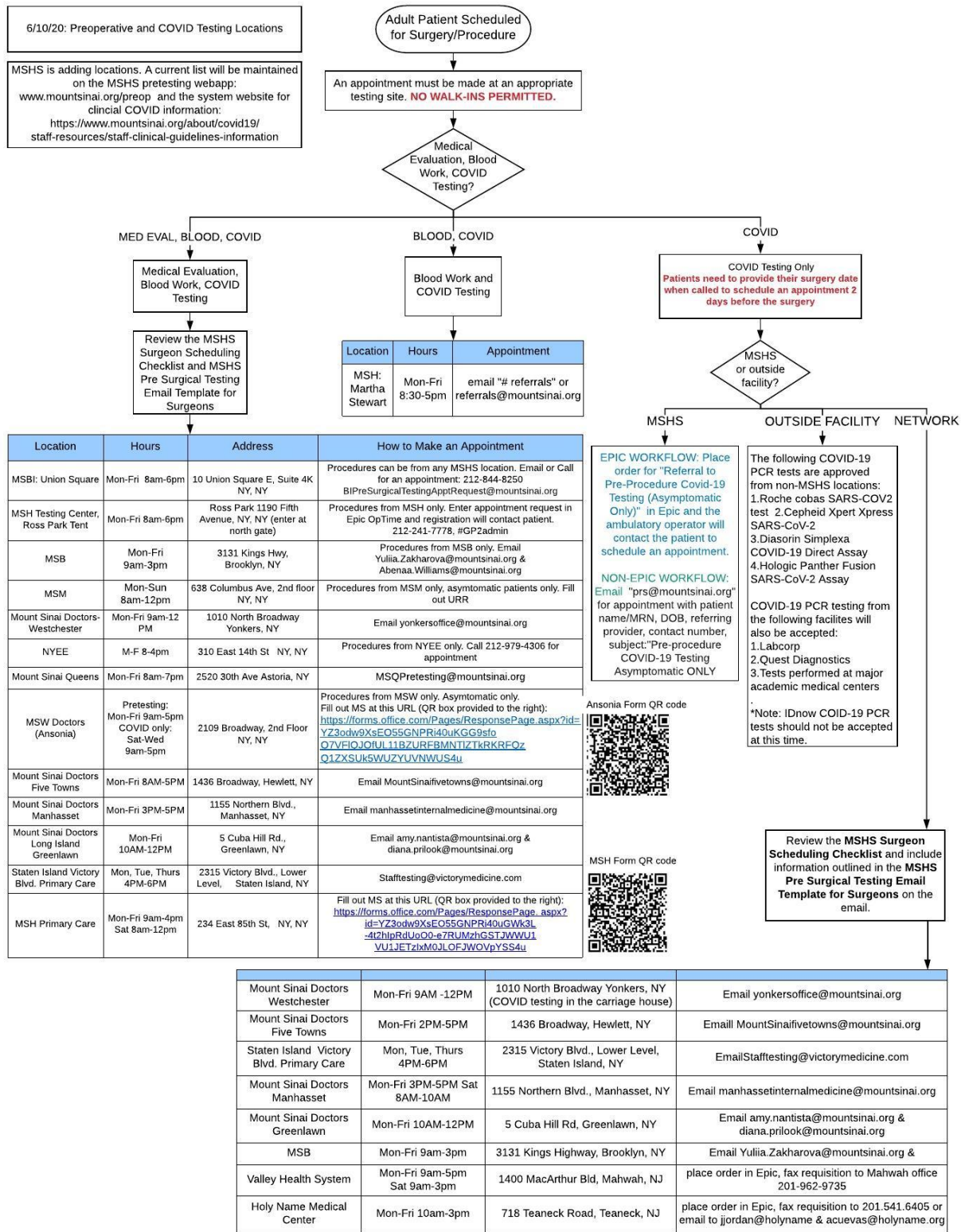


Figure 2: Requesting an Appointment for Pretesting



II. Pretesting visit workflow scenarios

- A. Based on medical need, the patient may need to see a medicine doctor for medical optimization a week or 2 in advance of the surgery and return to a COVID-19 testing site for testing within 2 days of the procedure.
- B. FDA approved COVID-19 PCR tests from non-Mount Sinai location may be acceptable. These approved tests are the following:
 - 1. Roche Cobas SARS-COV2 test
 - 2. Cepheid Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2
 - 3. Diasorin Simplexa COVID-19 Direct Assay
 - 4. Hologic Panther Fusion SARS-CoV-2 Assay
 - 5. COVID-19 PCR testing from Labcorp or Quest Diagnostics
 - 6. COVID-19 PCR testing performed at a major academic medical centers
- C. Note, IDnow COVID-19 PCR tests should not be accepted at this time.
- D. COVID-19 PCR testing can be performed in surgical or medical offices. Please contact the laboratory department in your hospital to arrange for training and testing supplies.
- E. Note, there are COVID-19 PCR ambulatory testing centers open on Saturday and Sunday for procedures on Monday and Tuesday. See Figure 2 above.

III. Labor and Delivery patients

- A. Scheduled patients (e.g. labor inductions, planned Cesarean sections):
 - 1. See OB COVID Testing Workflow for scheduling and testing process.
 - 2. Timing of delivery should be determined based on the delivery indication. Medically indicated deliveries should not be delayed. If clinical situation allows, in a positive test +/- symptoms or a negative test with symptoms, inductions and cesarean sections should be delayed until ≥ 14 days after the COVID-19 PCR testing with last 3 days of being afebrile ($< 100F$) not on antipyretics and significant resolution for respiratory symptoms adequate to undergo procedure. Final determination regarding timing of delivery will be made by the Director of Obstetrics.
 - 3. NOTE: For positive COVID-19 PCR in support person for patient or doula: May enter the hospital if at least 10 days from onset of symptoms has passed provided the individual is afebrile ($< 100F$) for at least 3 days hours with significant improvement to respiratory symptoms.

Table 1: PPE

Test Result	Symptoms	Recommended PPE
Positive	Yes	N95, Face Shield, Gloves, Gown
Positive	No	N95, Face Shield, Gloves, Gown
Negative	Yes	N95, Face Shield, Gloves, Gown
Negative	No	Standard PPE

Note: An N95, face shield, gloves, and gown are also recommended for staff performing airway procedures (e.g. laryngeal airway, thoracic tracheal, bronchoscopy) that may include services such as anesthesiology, ENT, thoracic surgery, as well as endoscopy and TEE. All PPE used on site at Mount Sinai facilities should come from the Mount Sinai Health System Supply Chain. Tyvex suits are not allowed. Standard PPE in Labor and Delivery includes a surgical mask along with standard precautions PPE.