



To: Rochester Regional Health Medical & Nursing Staff
From: Robert Mayo, MD, System Chief Medical Officer
Dawn Riedy, MD, System Chair, Hospital Labs & Pathology
Subject: Revised Pre-Op/Pre-Procedure COVID-19 Testing Plan

August 24, 2021

On **Tuesday, September 7**, Rochester Regional Health will begin to transition to saliva sample collection for asymptomatic pre-op/pre-procedure COVID-19 testing. We recognize this may create some challenges but our goal is to increase efficiency and avoid canceling or delaying any surgeries or procedures. We are partnering with GRIPA leadership and InterVol to communicate changes and to deliver needed supplies to your offices in the coming days and weeks.

Saliva Collection Process

- The testing order process will remain the same with the Care Connect order panel and paper lab requisitions will be updated to include saliva as a sample type.
- **Your office will give each patient a saliva collection device (calibrated sterile tube) and a saliva collection instruction sheet.**
- Testing will still occur three to five days before your patient's scheduled surgery, procedure, or treatment.
- **Your patient will collect their saliva sample at home (or in a private vehicle) within one hour of visiting an RRH PSC for sample registration and inspection.**
- This service will continue to be offered Monday through Saturday
- All PSC locations will be able to assist your patients (*locations will no longer be restricted*).
- Results will be delivered to you as you receive COVID-19 results with an expected turnaround time of 48 hours or less.

We are developing an alternative nasal swabbing process for the following:

- For children under age 5, any other patients unable to produce an adequate saliva sample (e.g. dementia, developmental disabilities, or dry mouth).

- Patients tested with a shorter testing interval prior to scheduled cardiac bypass.
- For any other semi-urgent cases (outpatient add-ons within 24-48 hours), we are developing an alternative nasal swabbing process.

Please review **KEY DATES** and implement **NEXT STEPS FOR OFFICES**. Additional information about this alternate testing option is included in the attached [RRH Revised Pre-Op COVID Testing Plan FAQ's](#).

KEY DATES

Aug 24	Transition plan communicated to all medical staffs GRIPA communication to follow, including office staffs
Aug 25	RRH Physician Leader COVID Briefing Q & A
By Aug 30	A patient flyer will be send to your offices via email; this patient flyer will help you communicate the transition from nasal swabs to saliva testing
Aug 31-Sept 2	RRH Couriers and InterVol Volunteers will deliver supplies to your office- a several week supply of saliva collection devices, instruction sheets and updated paper lab requisitions; these saliva collection supplies are for your use beginning Sept 7th. Your office will thereafter be responsible for re-ordering supplies as needed.
Sept 4-6	Labor Day Weekend
Sept 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Care Connect order will be available for ordering pre-op saliva collection • Start ordering saliva testing for all procedures Sept 20th or later • Start delivering saliva collection devices and instruction sheets to patient scheduled for procedures Sept 20th or later (including patients booked in the past) • Start paper order process for all patients requiring alternate nasal swab collection for all procedures beginning Sept 20th or later • Outdated paper lab COVID-19 requisitions FAXED to Lab Client Services will no longer be accepted
Sept 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last day for PSC nasal swabs for Saturday Sept 18th procedures • First day for saliva collections for Sept 20th procedures • First day for Restricted Nasal Swab Testing Process

NEXT STEPS FOR OFFICES

AUGUST 24- SEPT 6

Procedure Date	
Procedure prior to Sept 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue giving your patient an instruction sheet for PSC nasal swabbing ▪ Continue ordering a Pre-Op Nasal Swab COVID-19 Test (current order Care Connect or paper requisition order) ▪ Continue directing your patient to PSC locations for sample collection 3-5 days before scheduled procedure
Procedure Sept 20 or later, already booked	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify all such patients in your practice and begin developing a communication plan, including how you will distribute saliva sample collection devices and instruction sheets starting Sept 7 ▪ Consider scheduling a date/time starting Sept 7 when these patients can stop by your office to pick up their saliva testing supplies ▪ Order appropriate COVID-19 saliva test starting Sept 7 ▪ For patients <u>not</u> eligible for saliva testing, refer to RRH Revised Pre-Op COVID Testing Plan FAQ's for restrictions, ordering and patient instructions
Procedure Sept 20 or later, booked now to Sept 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inform these patients that we are transitioning to a saliva collection process ▪ Consider scheduling a date/time starting Sept 7 when these patients can stop by your office to pick up their saliva testing supplies ▪ Order appropriate COVID-19 saliva test starting Sept 7 ▪ For patients <u>not</u> eligible for saliva testing, refer to RRH Revised Pre-Op COVID Testing Plan FAQ's for restrictions, ordering and patient instructions

STARTING SEPT 7

This is the date when the updated Care Connect order, lab requisitions and all supplies will be available

Procedure Date	Provider & Office Staff Instructions
Procedure prior to Sept 20, booked starting today	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue giving your patient an instruction sheet for PSC nasal swabbing • An interim process for continuing to order a Pre-Op Nasal Swab COVID-19 Test for these patients is being developed (communication to follow once this process is developed) • Continue directing your patient to PSC locations for sample collection 3-5 days before scheduled procedure
Procedure Sept 20 or later, booked prior to today	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Order a Pre-op Saliva COVID-19 test (cancel any old nasal swab orders) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Care Connect order <u>or</u> ○ Paper requisition FAXED to Lab Client Services • Ensure patient receives a saliva sample collection device and instruction sheet (needed by patients no later than Sept 15th for Sept 20th procedures) • For patients <u>not</u> eligible for saliva testing, refer to RRH Revised Pre-Op COVID Testing Plan FAQ's for restrictions, ordering and patient instructions
Procedure Sept 20 or later, booked starting today	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discard any remaining obsolete nasal swab patient instruction sheets • Order a Pre-Op Saliva COVID-19 test <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Care Connect order <u>or</u> ○ Paper requisition FAXED to Lab Client Services • Give the patient a saliva collection device and instruction sheet • For patients <u>not</u> eligible for saliva testing, refer to RRH Revised Pre-Op COVID Testing Plan FAQ's for restrictions, ordering, and patient instructions