



**PHOENIX
CHILDREN'S**

COVID-19

Dear Colleagues,

We are providing an update on COVID-19 (SARS-Cov-2) testing and pre-procedural testing for patients requiring anesthesia. Phoenix Children's (PCH) now has increased in-house testing capability. This will be very helpful in managing our inpatient urgent and emergent cases as well as urgent cases seen in ambulatory clinics that need to be done the same or next day.

PCH TESTING CAPABILITY

The Diasorin platform was used solely for PCH in-house testing until this week. This platform has the capability of testing 140 patients per week. This is primarily due to the limitation of the number of testing kits provided by the vendor. This week the PCH Lab has completed validation for the Biofire platform. This machine runs a respiratory viral panel and the company added the SARS-Cov-2 testing to that panel. This will be particularly important for us during peak respiratory illness season when we see higher number of patients and we need to exclude COVID-19 as a differential diagnosis. This summer we will also be adding a third testing platform (Cepheid) and we will provide more information when that comes online. However, we caution everybody that we still have a tenuous supply chain and we cannot be assured of getting adequate test kits for the testing platforms on a regular basis. If there is any disruption in testing capacity, we will notify you immediately.

PCH will continue to use Sonora Quest for our elective pre-procedural testing. We will also use Sonora Quest for patients tested in ED or ambulatory clinics who are able to be discharged home. They have been providing a median turn-around time of less than 24 hours. We did have some technical issues with some of the viral media kits that we were using, but that has been resolved.

INPATIENT TESTING

Given our increased ability to perform in-house testing, all inpatients who undergo testing for COVID-19 will be performed by PCH in-house testing. That being said, please be judicious in your testing of patients as testing is not unlimited at this time. Any patient who requires anesthesia for a diagnostic imaging study or procedure should be screened for COVID-19. Any patient with symptoms that are concerning for COVID-19 should be screened including patients who meet criteria for Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children. For patients who may benefit from serology testing, please consult infectious disease. Anticipated turnaround time for test results is ~3-4 hours.

Any patient in the hospital who undergoes testing for COVID-19 must be placed in Special Pathogen Isolation precautions until the test is resulted. All COVID-19 positive patients will be admitted to our Special Pathogen Unit.

PRE-PROCEDURAL & DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING TESTING - AMBULATORY

Out of town patients

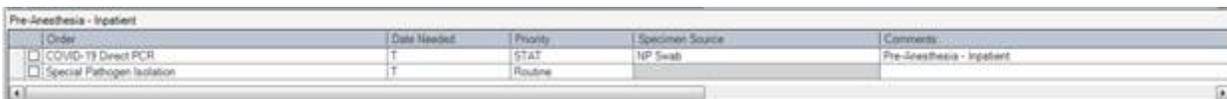
One issue that has been problematic is arranging testing for patients who live out of town. The travel distance prohibits some patients from coming to the PCH pre-procedural testing site. The commercial labs that are used to test these patients can take 7-10 days to provide results. This is beyond our recommended window for pre pre-procedural testing, although we have extended the window up to 7 days for out of town patients. Any time frame beyond seven days is probably not reasonable due to risk of acquiring infection during that time. We continue to use 72-96 hours for patients tested at PCH. On a case-by-case basis, we may allow testing of out of town patients in-house. This would preferably be done late afternoon the day before. It is challenging to plan for testing on the morning of the procedure as it will likely lead to delays.

Testing sites

We currently test Monday through Saturday on the main PCH campus. We have now opened up testing at the East Valley Satellite on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. This is very convenient for our patients who have procedures at our East Valley Surgery Center and Radiology. The testing centers are by appointment and arranged by the PCMG and Radiology scheduling team. A process has been developed for non-PCMG providers to arrange testing.

Urgent add-on cases

For the urgent add-on cases that are seen in clinic and need to be done the next day, we want their testing done through our testing center. The surgery schedulers have the information on how to arrange this testing. It is important that an order is placed for an in-patient pre-anesthesia test so that the lab knows where to perform the test and avoid having it sent out to Sonora Quest.



Order	Date Needed	Priority	Specimen Source	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> COVID-19 Direct PCR	T	STAT	NP Swab	Pre-Anesthesia - Inpatient
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Pathogen Isolation	T	Routine		

Patient self-quarantine

We have implemented self-quarantining of patients after their testing is performed. They are asked to stay at home and not travel within the community until the date of surgery. This is to limit their exposure and prevent the development of infection after they have had the swab obtained. This is particularly important for those that have tested several days in advance. The Emily center has worked with infection prevention to develop an educational handout for families. This has been posted to the website under the Emily Center.

Positive COVID-19 test result

Lastly, we want to address what needs to happen if there is a positive COVID-19 pre-procedural test result in patients undergoing screening (algorithm attached). The test results from Sonora Quest as well as those performed in-house will populate into SCM, so you will see the results in your inbox. IT has also created a pop-up alert to remind you when tests have resulted. All positive COVID-19 test results are reported to the Command Center by the Lab. The Command Center notifies the provider who ordered the test. The Command Center also notifies Infection Prevention who will then report to the Maricopa Department of Health. The Maricopa Health Department performs contact tracing and makes recommendations to the family. However, if you identify positive results on review of the chart, we would recommend that you contact the family to notify them of the positive result and also their primary care physician. You can let them know they will be contacted by the Department of Health. We are not allowing patients that have positive tests undergo elective procedures. Only emergent surgery/procedures should be performed in patients who have positive COVID-19 testing. All of those cases will be reviewed by the Surgeon in Chief and the Perioperative Medical Director so that proper arrangements can be made for where the procedure can be performed.

The procedure should not be rescheduled for at least 14 days after a positive result. The Health Department will inform the family of isolation procedures at home. The patient will need to undergo repeat COVID-19 testing prior to the rescheduled procedure. They will need to have a negative test prior to proceeding.

Sincerely,

Michael Ritchey, MD
Chief Medical Officer

Jared Muenzer, MD
Physician in Chief

Kelly Kelleher, MD
Chief Quality and Safety Officer

Dan Ostlie, MD
Surgeon in Chief