

Inpatient screening for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

For the safety of our patients and staff, University of Iowa Health Care is testing all people admitted to our hospitals for COVID-19, even if they do not have symptoms. The test is performed when you get to the hospital, either right before you're admitted or during your other tests. Patients will be tested every 5 days while on an inpatient unit. Since some people may have COVID-19 without symptoms, we want to know the results of each patient in our hospitals so we can safely care for them.

What is COVID-19?

It is a respiratory disease caused by a new virus called SARS-CoV-2. The most common symptoms are:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Most people with COVID-19 will have mild symptoms. Some people will get sicker and may need to be in the hospital. Some people will not have any symptoms at all.



How will the test be performed?

Health care staff will swab the back of your nose. This test will be done after you are admitted to the hospital and every five days.



How soon can I expect results?

Test results should be back within 8 hours of testing.



What happens if my test shows I have the virus?

We will talk with you about how you can keep yourself and your close contacts healthy. We will teach you what to expect and how to get care if you start to feel sick.