

Immunosuppressed Patient SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) and Respiratory Viral Testing Guidelines

Testing for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) is now available and can be ordered through commercial reference labs - “COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) PCR”. As other respiratory viruses including influenza are circulating in the community, it is recommended that testing for SARS-CoV-2 be ordered in conjunction with a Respiratory Viral panel PCR for patients presenting with respiratory symptoms in selected circumstances-requiring hospitalization. **As you are aware, this is a rapidly evolving situation and testing guidance will be updated accordingly depending on community transmission dynamics and test capacity. Do not ignore other signs and symptoms during this COVID-19 period, as patients with fever and signs of infection should be treated by current guidelines (e.g. neutropenic fever, sepsis).**

Clinical Criteria	SARS-CoV-2 Test?	Rapid Flu/ RSV or Extended Respiratory Viral PCR Test?	Infection Control Precautions
No Fever or Respiratory symptoms	No	No	Standard Precautions
Fever WITHOUT respiratory symptoms	Yes	No	Standard Precautions *Solid organ transplant patients with fever should be placed in Droplet/Contact Precautions if COVID-19 is being considered
Respiratory symptoms* WITH OR WITHOUT fever	YES – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Risk Cancer Patients[†] • All Solid Organ Transplant Patients • Other Immunosuppressed Patients[‡] • Increased Risk Due to Medical Comorbidities[§] 	YES – Respiratory Viral Panel PCR Test <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Risk Cancer Patients[†] • Lung Transplant Patients • Other Solid Organ Transplant Patients • Other Immunosuppressed Patients[‡] • Increased Risk Due to Medical Comorbidities[§] 	Mask patient and place in private room Droplet/ Contact Precautions

* Respiratory symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, wheezing or chest tightness, sore throat. Consider excluding symptoms attributable to allergies.

[†] High Risk Cancer Patients: All transplant and immunotherapy, all hematologic malignancy, all active chemotherapy, neutropenia (ANC <500)

[‡] Other immunosuppressed: Biologic agents for immunosuppression, steroids >0.5mg/kg/day prednisone equivalent, congenital or acquired immunodeficiency

[§] Medical comorbidities: Age >60, diabetes, CKD, pregnancy, lung cancer, chronic lung disease, cirrhosis