

MedStar Health Criteria to Determine COVID-19 Patient Under Investigation (PUI) Status

These criteria are used to determine which isolation type and PPE requirement is necessary to provide appropriate protection to care providers, as determined by a team of infectious disease, infection protection, and environmental safety professionals, and in alignment with CDC recommendations.

*****Consistency is critical: any exceptions must be approved by CNO or VPMA*****

Note that these recommendations will change each time the CDC updates criteria and recommendations. Please check www.MedStarHealth.org/COVID19Resources or StarPort For Most Recent Update

Definition of PUI

A. The following patients are considered PUIs:

1. Any patient with the following CDC-defined symptoms associated with COVID-19: (updated as of 7/21/20)
 - a. Fever or
 - b. New/worsened cough or
 - c. New/worsened shortness of breath or
 - d. Sudden loss of taste/smell or
 - e. GI symptoms or
 - f. Congestion or running nose or
 - g. Myalgias
 - h. Fatigue
 - i. Headache
 - j. Chills
 - k. Sore throat
2. Presentations for evaluation (such as in the ED) who are unresponsive or incapacitated (i.e. are unable to answer COVID-19 screening questions) and a reliable history is not otherwise available.
3. If a previously positive patient becomes symptomatic during the 90-day period after the first positive RT-PCR test and an alternative diagnosis cannot be identified other than COVID-19 (e.g., influenza), evaluate for COVID-19 in consultation with infectious disease. This would not make patient PUI and they do not need COVID precautions or repeat testing

B. The following patients are not PUIs:

1. Any asymptomatic patient capable of giving a reliable history, including those undergoing COVID-19 screening tests. Asymptomatic is defined by the lack of symptoms listed in A1a through A1k above. Patients who have a positive result from an antibody test are also not considered a PUI.

Important notes:

- MedStar Health is currently screening several groups of asymptomatic patients for COVID19. It is important to note that a pending COVID19 test in a patient without COVID19 symptoms is NOT defined as a PUI.
- When a patient is being transferred from another MedStar Health entity or an outside facility, accepting physicians should work with the transfer center to ensure that the sending facility has inquired about all of the above criteria. When possible, the sending and receiving physicians should discuss the patient's



history and come to a mutually agreeable decision about PUI status. When disagreement remains, the decision of the sending facility’s physician shall guide the PUI designation.

COVID-19 Testing

All Symptomatic Patients: Should all be tested for COVID-19. Symptoms include any of the following:
Fever, Chills, Cough, Shortness of breath, Difficulty breathing, Fatigue, Muscle or Body aches, Headache, Sudden loss of taste/smell, Sore throat, Congestion, Runny nose, Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea.
**Asymptomatic Testing Guidance Included Below*

Should Test

- All patients in Maryland requesting a test should be tested or receive an order for testing elsewhere.
- Symptomatic patients (see symptom list above)
- Any healthcare worker who believes it necessary, regardless of symptoms
 - Symptomatic MedStar associates be referred for follow up at MedStar Occupational Health (844) 354-3705, and it is preferred that they receive testing at Occupational Health.
- All admissions to OB and Pediatrics
- ED patient being admitted to Psychiatric unit
- Hospitalized patients being admitted to entity hospice unit
- Hospitalized patients needing dialysis
- Immunocompromised patients being admitted to hospital
- Hospitalized patients being prepared for discharge to a skilled nursing facility or dialysis center where tests are required
- Pre-operative patients for evaluation and surgical planning
- All admissions to cohorted non-COVID ICUs and IMCs
- Recovered COVID positive patients’ (essential employees) requiring negative COVID-19 test for return to work
- Recovered COVID patients admitted within 10 days of last test (May be asymptomatic but consider PUI)
- Additional ambulatory (Urgent Care, primary care, and specialty office) patient categories may be considered on a case-by-case basis per provider judgment.

Can Test

- Asymptomatic individuals where COVID-19 exposure may be possible, including:
- Contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases (e.g., contact tracing)
 - Residents and staff of group living facility (shelter, nursing home, corrections facility, or other institution)
 - Public safety workers (EMS, fire, police)
 - Individuals employed in close contact settings (e.g., retail, public transport, school, childcare, food service or processing, personal services, manufacturing, or for children attending school, child care)
 - Individuals previously in a large gathering.
- #Self-quarantine can be advised as an equivalent measure if testing supplies are limited.**

Inpatient or ED (for patients being observed/admitted):

- Patients should not be retested within 90 days of an initial positive COVID-19 test.
- Any PUI should undergo COVID testing and the patient will remain a PUI while awaiting results of the test.
 - If the patient tests negative for COVID, the patient may remain a PUI as determined by the clinical team (see below)
 - If the test is positive, the patient is now considered COVID+.
- Asymptomatic patients who can provide a reliable history may be tested and will not be considered PUI or require COVID19 isolation while awaiting test results

Discontinuation of PUI Status

PUI status may be discontinued based on having negative results from at least one respiratory specimen using an FDA-authorized molecular viral assay to detect SARS-CoV-2 RNA.

If that is negative, and there is a high level of clinical suspicion for COVID-19 consider maintaining COVID Precautions and performing a second test for SARS-CoV-2 RNA. **Or** follow PUI Removal guide [Need Link]. Ultimately, clinical judgement and suspicion of COVID-19 infection determine whether to continue or discontinue PUI status and COVID precautions. A PUI remains isolated until the clinical team evaluates test results and these symptoms to determine if the PUI can be removed from isolation using the PUI Removal Guide



If a patient suspected of having COVID-19 but is never tested, the decision to discontinue COVID Precautions can be made using the [Symptom Based Strategy for Discontinuation of COVID Precautions](#).

- Asymptomatic patients undergoing screening tests do NOT require COVID-19 isolation.
 - If COVID-19 test returns positive for an asymptomatic patient COVID-19 isolation orders are automatically placed in MedConnect.
- Cohorting guidance for confirmed COVID-19 positive patients can be found [here](#). COVID-19 negative patients can be cohorted as per usual practice. PUIs should not be placed in semi-private rooms.

Labeling of PUIs in MedConnect

Patients are identified in MedConnect as PUIs through several mechanisms:

- Through COVID-19 Screening and Provider Assessment for COVID-19 forms.
 - The COVID-19 Screening form is completed upon intake in the emergency department, pre-op area, or ambulatory office to assess for current COVID-19 symptoms.
 - If the symptom screen is positive or the patient is unresponsive/incapacitated, the screener is prompted to don PPE, place a mask on the patient, and notify the provider.
 - If the symptom screen is negative, no further action is required, and the patient is NOT a PUI. Note that if COVID-19 symptoms develop after initial intake screening, the patient should be identified as a PUI by another mechanism.
 - The Provider Assessment for COVID-19 Testing appears on chart opening for providers to complete if the COVID-19 Screening form is positive for COVID-19 symptoms, or the patient is unresponsive/incapacitated.

Are you currently experiencing any of the following symptoms?

- None: Pt denies loss of taste/smell, fever/feverish, new/worsening cough/SOB, NVD, chills, body aches, sore throat, fatigue, congestion/runny nose, headache
- Sudden loss of taste and/or smell
- Fever/feel feverish
- New or worsening cough
- New or worsening shortness of breath
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Chills
- Body aches
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose
- Headache
- Unable to Obtain/Patient Unresponsive

- Providers are presented with two zones to determine testing eligibility. Any patient who has COVID-19 symptoms (outlined in the blue box), falls into the GREEN or YELLOW categories, and for whom COVID-19 testing is indicated (option #4 under assessment and plan on the provider assessment screen - below) is a PUI.

- All hospitalized patients with COVID-19 symptoms and those who are unresponsive/incapacitated are considered PUIs and testing should be ordered.

- Recovered COVID patients admitted within 10 days of last test (May be asymptomatic but consider PUI)
- Additional ambulatory (Urgent Care, primary care, and specialty office) patient categories may be considered on a case-by-case basis per provider judgment.

Last Updated 7/2/2020

Please identify your assessment and plan for this patient:

1. Unable to decide currently. (Remind on next chart open)
2. Patient's clinical presentation DOES NOT suggest acute COVID-19 infection and testing is NOT INDICATED - do not test
3. Patient's clinical presentation suggests acute COVID-19 infection but testing is NOT INDICATED - recommend self-isolation for at least 10 days and until symptom-free for 72 hours
4. Patient's clinical presentation suggests acute COVID-19 infection and testing is INDICATED - proceed with testing or refer to a site that performs testing

2. Through the COVID-19 Lab Advisor.

- a. If a provider has not already identified a patient as a PUI and COVID-19 symptoms develop during hospitalization, COVID-19 isolation precautions can be addressed at the time a COVID-19 lab test is ordered. If results return negative for COVID-19, refer to PUI discontinuation protocol: **Person Under Investigation (PUI) Status Removal Guide After a Negative Real-Time COVID-19 PCR**

Discern: ZZZCERNERTEST, MAYADULT (1 of 1)



COVID-19 Order Assistant

Patient:	ZZZCERNERTEST, MAYADULT	Sex:	Female	MRN:	GUH-000002263199
Location:	GUH SCTR: PAC30-A	DOB:	04/01/1985 (35 Years)	FIN:	GUH-07729188032

Please select the ONE option that most closely describes your patient's testing scenario:

Inpatient

ICU admission (PUI)

Cohorted non-COVID ICU/IMC admission (asymptomatic)

Non-ICU admission/observation (PUI)

Psychiatric admission/observation (asymptomatic)

Hemodialysis patient (asymptomatic)

Immunocompromised [cancer, transplant, immunodeficiency, etc.] (asymptomatic)

Pediatric

Pediatric admission/observation (PUI)

Emergency

Emer Dept PUI with high risk discharge [homeless or group-living] (PUI)

Discharge home - meets MedStar Green-Yellow Criteria (PUI)

Employee Health

Occupational Health screening (MedStar associates only)

Labor & Delivery

Labor and Delivery (PUI)

Patient in Active Labor L&D (asymptomatic)

Pre-operative

Approved urgent surgery/procedure pre-op (asymptomatic) - occurring WITHIN 48 hours

Approved urgent surgery/procedure pre-op (asymptomatic) - occurring BEYOND 48 hours

Pre-op (asymptomatic) - PAT USE ONLY

Other

Hospice Unit (asymptomatic)

Negative test required for discharge - SNF/Rehab/etc.

Negative test required for discharge - Dialysis Center

SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS:

Please communicate to any clinician responsible for collecting the specimen:

Collect **ONE** Nasopharyngeal swab in viral transport media.

Please confirm COVID-19 isolation status for patients under investigation.