

**Situation:** The PPE and Lab Utilization Committee is recommending changes to pre-procedural COVID testing in patients who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

**Background / Assessment:**

1. As COVID-19 case rates fall, and vaccination amongst the public rises, the risk of asymptomatic carriage decreases.
2. In addition, with the vast majority of our UNMC/NM healthcare providers now fully vaccinated, the likelihood of patient-to-provider transmission has also decreased.
3. With this in mind, providers have been questioning the need for pre-procedural testing in vaccinated patients.
4. The PPE and Lab Utilization Committee has discussed the best way to address this request.

**Recommendation:**

1. **As of Monday, May 3, pre-procedural COVID-19 testing is no longer necessary for patients who have been fully vaccinated and report no symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and report no close contact with persons with COVID-19 and are not expected to be admitted.**
  - a. Close contact as defined by the CDC is as follows: Being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more, providing care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19, having direct physical contact with the person with COVID-19 (hugged or kissed them), sharing eating or drinking utensils, being directly exposed to sneeze, cough, or getting respiratory droplets on you
  - b. Fully vaccinated is defined as 14 or more days from the terminal vaccination (2<sup>nd</sup> dose for Pfizer or Moderna, single dose for J&J)
  - c. Please note, for patients not meeting these strict criteria (fully vaccinated, asymptomatic, no close exposure) they should continue to be tested prior to procedure and follow all current precautions
  - d. Pre-procedural patients who are expected/planned to be admitted still need to have pre-procedural COVID-19 testing, despite vaccination status
  - e. Testing can be ordered at provider discretion and in some cases, based on perceived risk, testing may be performed on persons who meet the above criteria
2. Some specifics regarding this recommendation:
  - a. This is for patients who are beyond two weeks from their final COVID-19 vaccination
  - b. Patients are still expected to follow all guidelines (wear a mask, distancing, handwashing)
  - c. Vaccination receipt documentation is **required** in one of two ways:
    - i. Already recorded in the EMR based on state documentation (Tips on how to conduct a NESIIS query:

<https://updates.nebraskamed.com/onechart/tip-sheet/automatic-nesiis-query/>) OR

- ii. The vaccination card would need to be **visualized** (no verbal reporting accepted) AND then documented in EMR/state database
- d. Employees are still expected to follow all standard PPE (masks, eyewear)

Thanks,

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PPE and Lab Utilization Committee Co-chairs