



TO: Medical Staff

FROM: Hans P. Cassagnol, MD, EVP & Chief Clinical Officer/Physician Executive

DATE: November 30, 2020

RE: Rapid COVID Testing in the ED

With the recent increase in the number of COVID cases within Western New York, there is an increased burden on the current testing supplies. In an effort to expedite identification of COVID positive patients Catholic Health will be moving to a Rapid Testing antigen platform in the ED.

The Rapid antigen test is only indicated for ED Patient's that are **symptomatic** for COVID-19 and are determined to need an in-patient admission. This test is most effective within 5 days of symptom onset.

All positive results will result in the patient being treated as COVID positive. Any negative (antigen not detected) result will require a follow-up order for a RT-PCR test. The patient will not be determined to be negative until the results of the RT-PCR have been reported. These patient's COVID status will be determined by the RT-PCR result. A symptomatic patient that requires an RT-PCR testing to confirm negative results from the BD Veritor platform should be treated as a person under investigation (PUI) pending the RT-PCR result.

The DOH requires that all symptomatic patients also are tested for the flu. This will require patients to be swabbed twice.

Rapid Testing will be started at Buffalo Mercy Hospital and Kenmore Mercy Hospital on 11/30/20 and at Sisters of Charity and Mount Saint Mary's Hospital on 12/1/20.

Rapid Testing is only available in the emergency department.