IU Health launches COVID-19 testing

March 21, 2020

This week, IU Health achieved an important milestone. Our Molecular Diagnostics Lab launched internal testing for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). This is a game-changer, as the faster we know who has the disease, the better and more efficient our response. It greatly accelerates our ability to identify COVID-19 patients, provide appropriate care and isolation measures, protect our team members and manage our personal protective equipment.

Currently, the number of people who can be tested is limited, with priority given to high-risk, seriously ill patients and health care workers who may have been exposed to the virus. Knowing who is infected--and who isn't--allows us to ensure our team members receive care if needed, and that our workforce does not pose a risk to our patients or each other.

Here are key points for IU Health leaders and team members:

- IU Health providers can now order the test through Cerner.
- Currently, we are not testing all team members or the general public. We are prioritizing high-risk, seriously ill patients and health care workers
- **Only team members who have been identified as high risk and need testing should be directed to the IU Health Virtual Screening Clinic by their managers at this time.** Screeners will evaluate and prioritize requests. If it is determined the team member should be tested, an order will be placed and they will be given instructions on how to provide a sample for testing.
- When team members connect to the IU Health Virtual Screening Clinic, they will be screened using the clinical protocol established by Infectious Disease leadership to determine if the team member should be tested for COVID-19. To expedite testing for team members and minimize the risk to others, IU Health has launched an off-site testing location in Indianapolis.

  Team members MUST have a order from the virtual hub to be tested. It is understood that this single location may be inconvenient for some team members and leadership is evolving plans to establish additional testing locations and expanded hours.

Leaders and team members are asked to please be as flexible as possible as we all work through these difficult circumstances together.

Additional capabilities will be coming over the coming days and weeks.

Have questions?

To best manage and answer questions, team members are asked to please post all questions and comments to the Coronavirus FAQ page.