



03/18/2020

Dear Colleagues,

The Tulane Health System and Tulane University School of Medicine leadership teams continue to address the COVID-19 pandemic, in accordance with CDC guidelines. The hospital has executed its surge plan, and we are seeing a significant number of patients seeking care for possible coronavirus, as was expected. We currently have seen an increase in inpatients that are positive and others pending testing.

Current Testing:

- The State of Louisiana Office of Public Health (OPH) continues to test for COVID-19. The turnaround time to receive results is now 48-72 hours.
- Tulane Medical Center does not have in-house testing capabilities. This capability is currently being investigated with hopes for quicker turnaround times soon.
- If testing for an inpatient is requested for COVID-19, please contact the incident commander/AOC at (504) 232-1370 to ensure that these patients are appropriately tracked.

Guidance for COVID-19 PUI:

- For PUI/positive COVID-19 patients at Tulane Medical Center, we are currently recommending N95 masks with goggles/face-shield/gown/gloves for providers if the patient is receiving aerosolized procedures (ventilated, High Flow NC, Duonebs or non-invasive ventilation.)
- If not receiving aerosolized procedures, then surgical mask with goggles/face-shield/gown/gloves is required.

Surgical Cases/Procedures/Clinic Visits:

- Per the school of medicine leadership, each clinical chair, in conjunction with the department faculty, are to determine the need for elective cases/procedures on a case-by-case basis.

- Additionally, each clinical chair, in conjunction with the department faculty, are to determine the clinical need for clinic visits.
- We recognize that no one knows the patients or their situations as well as the physicians. Please use your best judgement in making these decisions. If you determine it is in the patient's best medical interest, procedures/surgical case/clinic visits that can be rescheduled should be moved.

Please let me know if there are any questions or concerns.

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