

COVID-19 Bulletin

 Southcoast Health

Exclusively for the employees
of Southcoast Health

December 23, 2021

Greetings, Southcoast Colleagues.

In this Bulletin, you will find the following:

- **Important COVID-19 testing updates**
- **Newly assigned COVID-19 CBL must be completed by all employees and medical staff, deadline Jan. 15**
- **STATUS REPORT: COVID-19 cases**

Please scroll through the entire Bulletin for these updates, and be sure to visit Southcoast's [COVID-19 Employee Hub](#).

Thank you.

IMPORTANT COVID-19 TESTING UPDATES

Southcoast currently is using 4 COVID-19 testing platforms: Aries (PCR), Broad (PCR), Cepheid (PCR), Sofia (Antigen). The Sofia is used for asymptomatic patients only. All 4 perform well regardless of variants.

We receive a limited supply of each test type monthly. The lab team does an amazing job predicting needs and matching supply and demand to avoid running out of testing supplies. We need your help to order testing as indicated and avoid special requests. In the month of December, we will perform over 18,000 COVID tests at Southcoast.

Employee COVID-19 testing update and reminders

If you require a COVID-19 test because of symptoms and/or exposure, you MUST schedule an appointment through MyChart so that a testing order is created in the medical record system. The lab staff are unable to place orders for testing.

We recognize the demand for employee testing is rising and have added 60 additional testing slots reserved specifically to meet Southcoast employees' testing needs. In order to see these appointments, please be sure to answer YES to "Are you a Southcoast Employee?" in MyChart. Test turnaround times are under 24 hours. Your results will be available in MyChart.

DO NOT call the hot line, lab, or arrive at the Emergency Department to request an expedited test. All resources are constrained at this time and staff cannot be pulled away from their normal work to address special requests.

Information on what to do if you're symptomatic, as well as Southcoast's return-to-work procedures, are available on the [COVID-19 Employee Hub](#).

Reminder: For employees who require regular testing because they received a COVID vaccine-related medical or religious exemption, a standing order exists in the electronic medical record system. An appointment for testing is not required. You can walk in anytime the testing site is open. See COVID-19 testing calendar link below.

The COVID-19 testing calendar is posted on the intranet [COVID-19 Vaccination page](#).

Pre-op/pre-procedure COVID-19 patient testing update

As a reminder all, pre-op/pre-procedural testing goes to Broad and is a PCR test. Turnaround time is 24 hours. It is essential patients are scheduled for COVID-19 testing 48-72 hours prior to their procedure. Below is a guide to assist with scheduling timeline.

EXCEPTION: Due to the holiday, patients with procedures on Tuesday, 12/28, and Tuesday, 1/4, should be scheduled for testing as of 12/27 and 1/3.

If Procedure/ Birth/ Surgery is scheduled for:	Schedule COVID test on:
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Monday	Friday or Saturday
Tuesday	Saturday (or Sunday if Sunday hours added)
Wednesday	Monday (or Sunday if Sunday hours added)
Thursday	Monday or Tuesday
Friday	Tuesday or Wednesday

When a COVID-19 test is ordered, there is the option to select symptomatic/asymptomatic and STAT procedure. These buttons will route the test to the appropriate test platform in house. There is NO need to call the lab, hot line, or command center to expedite this test.

! Is the patient symptomatic per CDC guidelines?

! What is the primary reason for ordering?

Newly assigned COVID-19 Update CBL must be completed by all employees and medical staff, deadline Jan. 15

All Southcoast employees and medical staff are required to complete the **COVID-19 Update: Infection Prevention CBL on LEARNMore by January 15, 2022**. The CBL is a review of current COVID-19 information with links to current policies and recommendations.

Please note that an email notice was sent to all employees and medical staff this morning, Dec. 23, stating:

You have been enrolled in ~LO_Name~.

This is the indication that you were assigned the COVID-19 Update CBL. You can access LEARNMore via the link below or through the intranet

[COVID-19 Update: Infection Prevention CBL via LEARNMore](#)

Please call Infection Prevention x35497 or the Command Center x35801 with any questions.

STATUS REPORT: COVID-19 cases

As of this morning, we have 91 patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 hospitalized across our system – with 13 positive cases in ICU. In addition, we have 7 PUI hospitalized across our system – with no PUI in ICU.

COVID-19 daily dashboards, generated by the Southcoast Analytics Team, are available [here](#).

Thank you, and be well.