

COVID-19 Bulletin

 Southcoast Health

Exclusively for the employees
of Southcoast Health

March 24, 2022

Greetings, Southcoast Colleagues.

In this Bulletin, you will find the following:

- **Southcoast employee-only walk-in booster clinics at Vanity Fair**
- **UPDATED: COVID-19 patient screening and testing**
- **Guidance for ambulatory care waiting rooms**
- **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.

Southcoast employee-only walk-in booster clinics



life vest

... an added layer of protection to help save
your life.



Get boosted.

... add a layer of protection
— for your colleagues,
for your family, for yourself.

Visit a Southcoast employee-only walk-in vaccine clinic at Vanity Fair to get boosted and add another layer of protection! No appointment needed.

Upcoming employee-only walk-in vaccine clinics:

- Saturday, March 26, 10am-2pm (Vanity Fair)
- Wednesday, March 30, 9am-12pm (Vanity Fair)
- Thursday, March 21, 10am-6:30pm (Vanity Fair)
- Saturday, April 2, 10am-2pm (Vanity Fair)

Go [here](#) for the employee vaccine clinic schedule.

Remember to complete the consent via the link below in advance of arriving: <https://southcoastapps.southcoast.org/covidform>.

UPDATED: COVID-19 patient screening and testing

Testing update for aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) administered in outpatient areas

- + Nebulizer treatments and PFTs: COVID-19 testing within 72 hours of procedure is required for all patients. Screen all patients upon arrival and utilize appropriate precautions for positive or symptomatic patients if treatment is indicated.
- + Stress testing: NO pre-procedural COVID-19 testing required. Screen all patients upon arrival and utilize appropriate precautions for positive or symptomatic patients if treatment is indicated.

Pre-Surgery/Pre-Procedure Testing Plan Update

Patient Status	72 Hours	Day of Surgery
Admitted post-op	PCR*	No test required
Immunocompromised	Home antigen test*	No test required
Outpatient procedure/surgery	Home antigen test*	No test required
Pt symptomatic on arrival day of procedure	N/A	Antigen test required – collected in ASU and sent to SHG lab
Local anesthesia	No test required	No test required

*If positive test, procedure rescheduled according to guidelines unless urgent/emergent. Whenever possible, another patient should be scheduled into the open OR slot. If cancellation same day, must be escalated to lead anesthesiologist for confirmation.

Please note: There is no distinction between a vaccinated and unvaccinated patient in above testing plan.

Related Updated Documents

- + [Universal Screening and Testing for Hospital Admissions, Inpatients, and Selected Outpatient Procedures – Updated 03/16/22](#)
- + [Family Care Unit \(FCU\) Screening and Testing Guidelines – Updated 02/22/22](#)
- + [Pre-Procedure Pre-Surgery Covid Testing Requirements – Revised 02/22/22](#)

Guidance for ambulatory care waiting rooms

Below is guidance for ambulatory care site waiting rooms, given recent questions about resuming “business as usual”:

- + Waiting room chairs can be added back to your waiting rooms to accommodate patients, but not fully to pre-COVID-19 capacity.
 - Arrange waiting room chairs no closer than 3 feet from one another versus the previous 6 feet recommendation.
- + Universal masking remains a mandatory requirement for all providers, staff and patients (as long as patients can tolerate wearing a mask).
- + Ensure that hand sanitizer is readily available in waiting rooms.
- + Consistent and frequent cleaning of all surfaces in waiting rooms and patient care areas should continue.
 - Surfaces include tables, chair handles, and any other high-touch surface areas in the waiting rooms and patient care areas.
- + Paper brochures, magazines, etc. should remain absent from waiting rooms.
- + Individuals should not drink directly from water fountains (bubblers).

During the heightened periods of COVID-19, we learned to expedite throughput within the ambulatory practices and care sites. Given the relaxation of some of the standards, optimal throughput should remain a priority and staff should continue to minimize patient waiting.

STATUS REPORT: COVID-19 cases

As of this morning, we had 5 patients who tested positive for COVID-19 hospitalized across our system – with 1 positive case in ICU. In addition, we had 3 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.