Why We're Screening Using the COVID-19 Test

Nothing matters more to us during your stay than your safety and peace of mind. Premier Health is committed to ensuring you have a caring, comfortable environment in which to heal.

Given various public health initiatives to slow the spread of COVID-19, we are using COVID-19 tests to screen all patients admitted to our hospitals.

The following information explains **why** we are taking these steps:

- **Our commitment to the safety and well-being of our residents, patients, and staff remains <u>our highest priority</u>**.

- Screening tests help us determine for sure whether you are COVID-19 positive. If you are, we will do everything we can to protect **<u>you, your family, your providers, and our employees</u>**.

- Screening is a **key part of Ohio's plan to ramp up many health care services**.

- Screening **gives our region a far more detailed understanding of the extent to which the COVID-19 virus has spread** in the community.

- Due to extensive social distancing, the rate of immunity from COVID-19 is low. This leaves our society susceptible to periodic outbreaks of the disease in the absence of a vaccine. **Widespread screening, including in hospitals, will help to contain such outbreaks as they occur**.

- Screening **helps us conserve personal protective equipment (PPE)** for health care workers.

- **<u>Screening enhances our care</u>**, leading to **quick identification of cases, quick treatment for those people, and immediate isolation** to prevent spread.

- Screening helps us **better understand how much COVID-19 we have in our facilities whereas before, only symptomatic cases were being identified**.

- Screening reveals those who may have contracted the virus but remain **asymptomatic**.

- **Screening is endorsed as a best practice**.

  - The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recommended that health care providers coordinate with local and state public health officials, and to review the availability of COVID-19 screening capacity (along with personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies, workforce availability, and facility readiness) when making the decision to re-start or increase in-person care.

  - CMS encourages hospitals to **separate patients who are COVID-positive from those who are COVID-negative. <u>To accomplish this, we must screen</u>**.

<u>There is no financial incentive to screen you. Simply put, more screening keeps you safer</u>. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask any member of your health care team.

Premier Health