

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Fact Sheet for NIH Clinical Center Patients and Visitors

Community spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) is being detected in certain regions of the United States, including the National Capital Region. To protect patients and staff, the NIH Clinical Center has implemented a new screening process for all patients and their visitors beginning **Thursday, March 12, 2020**. The new screening process is designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 inside the NIH Clinical Center. Please Note: the NIH Clinical Center is not a screening facility for the general public. Members of the public who believe they have coronavirus should seek care from their primary care doctor.

Q: What will happen at the screening location?

A: You will be checked for a fever and asked whether you have a cough or trouble breathing. You will be asked about other risk factors for coronavirus (COVID-19), such as travel to certain countries or contact with a person who has coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. If you have low risk for coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, you will proceed to your appointment(s).

Q: What will happen if you have symptoms or risk factors for coronavirus (COVID-19)?

A: If you are found to have symptoms and risk factors, then you and any visitors with you will be asked to put on a face mask. You will be moved to another location for additional screening which may include testing for coronavirus (COVID-19) and for other respiratory viruses. The test requires a nasal swab and a throat swab.

Q: What will happen to my family members or visitors who are not patients if they have symptoms or risk for coronavirus (COVID-19)?

A: Family members or visitors who have respiratory virus symptoms but are not Clinical Center patients will not be allowed into the Clinical Center, and will be asked to follow CDC guidance.



Q: Why are the staff wearing protective gear?

A: Staff are wearing protective gear to avoid exposure to and spread of respiratory viruses, including flu, seasonal cold viruses, and coronavirus (COVID-19).

Q: If I get COVID-19 testing, does that mean that I have coronavirus (COVID-19) infection?

A: If you are tested for coronavirus (COVID-19), it means you may have symptoms or risk factors for having coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. Other infections and other medical conditions can give you the same symptoms. Only a test for coronavirus (COVID-19) can determine whether coronavirus (COVID-19) infection is the cause.

Q: How will I learn about my test results?

A: If you have a positive test for coronavirus (COVID-19), we will talk to you about the infection and your options for care. The test results will also be available with your other medical records on the Patient Portal.

Q: Who do I contact if I have more questions?

A: Please contact your NIH Clinical Center medical team if you have more questions about coronavirus (COVID-19).