

COVID-19 TESTING:

Before Your Procedure or Surgery at UCLA Health

UCLA Health requires that you obtain a valid COVID-19 test before your upcoming procedure or surgery. We require a pre-procedure test to ensure that you do not have COVID-19 around the time of your procedure, since a COVID infection can lead to complications that could have been avoided. We also want to make sure that you are protected from other patients in shared areas of the hospital, such as operating rooms and procedure room areas. That is why we test everyone.

There are two requirements for your COVID-19 test before your procedure or surgery at UCLA Health:

1. The laboratory must use a specific type of test.
2. The test specimen must be collected from a specific location.

Laboratory test type:

UCLA Health accepts PCR and RT-PCR tests. (“PCR” stands for polymerase chain reaction, which is the testing method. “RT” stands for real-time.) Some laboratory tests are called PCR but do not use the same testing method as a true PCR test. Please consult the table on the back of this sheet to see which tests are acceptable.

Make sure your laboratory will provide a UCLA Health approved test by providing them with the list on the back of this sheet.

Specimen collection location:

We require that your test be done using a sample obtained from one of two sources:

- **Nasopharyngeal:** a swab that is performed through the nose and touches the back of the throat
- **Mid-turbinate:** a swab inserted about 1 inch into either nostril, parallel to the tongue

These types of swabs are done by either a trained health care provider or by you, preferably while a health care worker observes. A swab done just inside the tip of your nose is not acceptable.

Pre-Procedure COVID-19 Tests Accepted by UCLA Health

Test Type	Accepted?
Test: PCR Specimen collection location: Nasopharyngeal or Mid-Turbinate Excluding Accula or Atila	Yes
Test: PCR Specimen collection location: Oral or anterior nasal (inserted only into the nostril tip) Swab type: Oral or nasal (inserted only into the nostril tip)	No
Test: Accula or Atila Note: May be misidentified as a PCR test. This is not a true PCR test.	No
Any Antigen Test Including in lab and at home tests	No
LAMP tests (loop-mediated amplification)	No
Abbott ID NOW	No