

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

**Message from Chief Medical Officer
COVID-19 Testing Program for Our Health Care Workers**

To keep all of you – our heroic workforce -- as strong and healthy as possible, and ensure a safe environment for all our patients, NYC Health + Hospitals will begin free COVID-19 testing for all employees effective April 1.

The COVID-19 employee testing program will be rolled out in phases over the next four weeks. We will first open testing to employees who have symptoms and are home and employees who are caring for COVID-19 patients.

Our plan is to make testing available to any employee who wants to get tested, regardless of your symptoms or where you work.

You will be able to get a test at any of our [11 hospitals and 7 large community-based Gotham Health centers](#). If you choose to get tested, you will have the option to get a call back or create an account on MyChart, the private secured online personal health record, to receive test results there. The results will be available in 1-2 days. You can call the new hotline, (646) 614-4001, to make an appointment based on the roll out schedule below.

- April 1 – testing begins for employees who are symptomatic and are home in isolation
- April 8 – testing opens for employees who have no symptoms and are providing direct care to COVID-19 patients
- April 15 – testing opens for employees who have no symptoms and have family members at home who have tested positive to COVID-19
- April 22 – testing opens for ALL employees

As you know, any employee who is ill with symptoms should already be staying home. Any employee who tests positive for COVID-19, even if they have no symptoms, should reach out to their personal physician, inform their supervisor and Occupational Health Services – the employee health office. Central Office employees should inform Human Resources. Employees who test positive, even with no symptoms, will be asked to stay home and follow the NY State guidelines on when to report back to work.

To protect staff confidentiality, test results will only be shared with the employee. We will not report test results by groups or facilities.

We are committed to your health and wellness during this unprecedented crisis and are leaving no stone unturned to secure the additional staff support, hospital beds, PPE and any other equipment you need to provide the quality, compassionate care New Yorkers need more than ever. While we have the masks and ventilators we need today, we are stepping up our advocacy at the local, state and federal level to secure even more equipment and beds to prepare for the weeks ahead.

We also recognize that health care workers are not immune from feeling the tremendous stress and anxiety this crisis is causing. We encourage you to take advantage of all the emotional and psychological support services available through our Helping Healers Heal program.

We want to protect all of you – the Essential Workers behind this epidemic -- so you can continue to protect New York City. Please take care of yourself and stay well, NYC Health + Hospitals!

Machelle Allen, MD
Chief Medical Officer