COVID-19 Testing Before Surgeries, Procedures and Tests

What You Need to Know

Why do I need to be tested for COVID-19?
At VCU Health, safety is always our top priority. With the recent COVID-19 pandemic, we have intensified our already rigorous protocols and precautions to ensure your safety as well as the safety of our health care providers and staff. This includes testing patients for COVID-19 before all surgeries, as well as many procedures and tests.

We need to do this because symptoms do not always appear at the beginning of the disease, and some people never have symptoms at all. In both cases, people still can spread the illness to others. A COVID-19 test is required for you to be able to have your planned surgery, procedure or test.

When do I need to be tested?
You should be tested 48-72 hours (2-3 days) before your scheduled surgery, procedure or test.

Where do I need to go?
We have several testing locations:

VCU Medical Center
Patient and Visitor Parking Deck (drive-thru)
529 N. 12th St., Richmond, VA 23298
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. No appointment needed.

Stony Point Campus (drive-thru)
9105 Stony Point Dr., Richmond, VA 23235
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. No appointment needed.

Neurosciences, Orthopaedic and Wellness Center
11958 W. Broad St., Henrico, VA 23233
Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. No appointment needed.

Orthopaedics at Jennick Drive
131 Jennick Dr., Colonial Heights, VA 23834
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. No appointment needed.

Occupational Health and Wellness
416 Durant St., South Hill, VA 23970
Appointment required. Please call (434) 774-2541.

Fredericksburg Multispecialty Center
10528 Spotsylvania Ave., Fredericksburg, VA 22408
Appointment required. Please call (804) 828-2467.

What do I need to do?
No specific preparation is needed.

• Please bring a photo ID with you to the testing site.
• If you visit one of our drive-thru testing sites, you will stay in your car to be tested.
• You will be asked to tilt your head back.
• Then, the inside of both sides of your nose will be swabbed. This may feel a little uncomfortable, but it is not painful.
• The caregiver doing the test will wear a clean set of gloves and some protective gear to stay safe while doing the test.
• We recommend that you self-quarantine following your test until your scheduled surgery, procedure or test to prevent possible exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.

How will I get the results?
Results will be posted in the My VCU Health patient portal as soon as they are available, usually within 48 hours. If the result is positive, we also will call you.

How will a positive result affect my planned surgery, procedure or test?
If your COVID-19 test comes back positive, your doctor will make a decision about whether it would be best for you to delay your upcoming surgery, procedure or test, or to continue as planned.

Will I get a bill for this test?
We will be charging your insurance for this test, and depending on your insurance provider, you may receive a bill for your portion of cost. Every payor is different, so if you have questions, contact your insurance provider.

Please contact your VCU Health provider if you have any questions.

Visit vcuhealth.org/locations for directions to our testing sites