



# COVID-19 Update

The latest information from Mayo Clinic

March 13, 2020

*As the world's most trusted leader in health care, Mayo Clinic is committed to providing a comprehensive response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. We are bringing together Mayo Clinic's unique expertise in patient care, research and education to advance tests and treatments for patients. The information below includes our policies as of today, but the situation is dynamic and information is rapidly evolving. For additional details and updates, please visit Mayo's [COVID-19 News Network site](#).*

## Mayo Clinic announces testing for COVID-19

Mayo Clinic is now testing for COVID-19, also known as the coronavirus, at its sites after developing and validating a rapid results laboratory test. Mayo Clinic has been working around the clock to develop the test which will allow patients to receive results within 24 hours. Testing became available in Arizona earlier this week. As of Thursday, testing is available onsite in Rochester and for Mayo Clinic Health System sites in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Florida is expected to have the test available later this month. Please note that capacity in the early stages will be limited to 200-300 people per day but we hope to expand capacity within weeks.

As home to one of the nation's largest reference laboratories, Mayo Clinic has been in close contact with officials from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and state health departments and other state and local partners. All positive samples will be sent to state departments of health, local officials, or CDC for appropriate follow-up testing and confirmation. To read more, [click here](#).

## Mayo Clinic offers pre-screened patients drive-through specimen collection

Mayo Clinic is conducting a drive-through process in Rochester to collect COVID-19 specimens for testing. Patients who meet criteria for testing are directed to the location. Mayo Clinic staff collects the



specimens, using appropriate precautions and wearing protective gear. Patients are required to call their primary care provider to have a phone screening first to determine if testing is appropriate. If approved, patients then will be directed to the drive-through location. To read more, click [here](#).

## Mayo Clinic staff mobilized to respond to pandemic



Mayo Clinic has instituted a Healthcare Incident Command System (HICS) to respond to COVID-19. HICS is a standardized, systematic approach to emergency response. This systematic process is designed to ensure coordination across Mayo Clinic and bring together over 100 staff from areas across the organization to draw on each other's expertise and ensure a cohesive and coordinated response to

emergencies to best serve our patients, staff, and communities. Mayo Clinic instituted the HICS to ensure preparedness and responsiveness to the evolving nature of COVID-19.

## Mayo Clinic updates staff guidance on telework, travel and large group meetings

On Tuesday, March 10, Mayo Clinic announced updates to staff travel and meeting policies as a precaution to ensure that staff and operations remain healthy and ready to best respond to evolving COVID-19 needs. Mayo Clinic has been following CDC guidelines and decided to take extra precautions to protect our staff and patients.

- Mayo employees who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are not symptomatic but are quarantined by Employee Occupational Health, will be asked to telework. If they are unable to telework, PTO, vacation or paid administrative leave may apply. If they are symptomatic, short-term disability or worker's compensation policies will apply.
- Until further notice, Mayo Clinic is restricting non-essential business travel for its staff to all locations (international and domestic), including air or rail travel between Mayo Clinic locations.
- For personal travel and activities, Mayo staff are asked to take precautions to minimize the risk of exposure. [CDC](#) guidance currently advises against nonessential travel to [affected areas](#) described as having widespread or sustained community transmission.
- Mayo Clinic is suspending hosting large gatherings/events, such as medical conferences and continuing medical education seminars to minimize risk. Mayo is also recommending that large internal meetings be moved to a streamed or videoconference option.

## If You Have Symptoms or Suspect You Were Exposed to COVID-19

The signs and symptoms of COVID-19 may appear two to 14 days after exposure and can include fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. The severity of COVID-19 symptoms can range from very mild to severe. People who are older or have existing medical conditions, such as heart disease, may be at higher risk of serious illness. This is similar to what is seen with other respiratory illnesses, such as influenza. Contact your doctor right away if you have COVID-19 symptoms and you've possibly been exposed to the virus. Call your doctor ahead to tell him or her about your symptoms and recent travels and possible exposure before you go to your appointment.

**Check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [website](#) for additional updates on COVID-19. For all your COVID-19 coverage, [click here](#).**

*COVID-19 UPDATE* is prepared by  
Mayo Clinic Division of External Relations and will publish as needed.