

There have been numerous requests for SARS-CoV-2 testing in connection with the research being conducted by investigators at the University and UPMC. We want to remind everyone of the University and UPMC research protocols concerning COVID-19 testing resources.

- For **COVID-19-related studies** (including those that are investigator initiated), testing may be performed in UPMC laboratories, depending on lab capacity. HOWEVER, testing kits (including reagents) MUST be supplied by the study team from a non-UPMC source. An institutional account is required to cover the cost of testing.
- For **human participant research unrelated to COVID-19 that requires testing per the research protocol**: testing may be performed at the UPMC South Side testing center, depending on testing center capacity. A physician order to perform testing is required, and an institutional account is required to cover the cost of testing. Please contact Meredith Axe, axem@upmc.edu, to arrange testing.
- For **human participant research unrelated to COVID-19**, other than that which explicitly requires COVID-19 testing of participants as part of the protocol, the University and UPMC cannot accommodate requests for testing. We encourage principal investigators to work with the study or industry sponsor to identify a central study or third-party laboratory.
- **Symptomatic testing or (clinically indicated) asymptomatic screening** that is conducted as part of routine patient care (regardless of research participation) may be included in study protocols. However, criteria for testing/screening that utilizes UPMC clinical labs must conform to current UPMC clinical guidelines. Costs for clinically indicated testing should not be billed to research sponsors.

Pitt and UPMC investigators are making important scientific contributions to research and the national COVID-19 response, and these protocols are in place to ensure a safe and effective process. Thank you for your cooperation in following these protocols.

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