



CENTRAL DUPAGE HOSPITAL  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM  
POLICY & PROCEDURES

TITLE: COVID TESTING

SECTION: INJURY / INFECTION

POLICY NUMBER: N-1

APPROVED BY: DR. STEVE GRAHAM EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

EFFECTIVE DATE: 05 FEBRUARY 2021

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**PURPOSE:**

To define the process of agencies DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) and or Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) issued "rapid" COVID testing at their agencies within the Central DuPage Hospital Emergency Medical Services System (CDHEMSS).

Nothing in this policy shall require CDHEMSS agencies or providers to participate in the testing process.

Agencies wishing to perform the DCHD and or IDPH issued test(s) shall have an approved Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) waiver under the CDHEMSS CLIA certificate.

**POLICY:**

1. Who may perform the BinaxNOW / iHealth COVID test:
  - a. Licensed Paramedics within the CDHEMSS who meet the following requirements:
    - i. Have been trained on the process of the BinaxNOW or iHealth testing platform. Confirmation of training completion shall be submitted to CDHEMSS.
      1. Testing can be obtained virtually via the DCHD
    - ii. Are in good standing within CDHEMSS
    - iii. Exhibit no signs or symptoms of COVID-19, including but not limited to:
      1. Fever
      2. Shortness of breath
      3. Headaches
      4. Bodyaches
      5. Exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days
      6. Loss of taste or smell
2. Who may receive the BinaxNOW / iHealth test:
  - a. Licensed Paramedics within the CDHEMSS *may* test the following personnel for COVID-19 utilizing the BinaxNOW / iHealth platform:
    - i. All Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel licensed at that agency
    - ii. Direct employees of the Fire Department (FD) or Fire Protection District (FPD)
    - iii. Sworn law enforcement personnel that serve the jurisdiction of the FD or FPD
    - iv. Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMDs) that provide dispatch resources for the FD or FPD
      1. Direct employees of the EMD agency

3. Who may NOT receive the BinaxNOW test:
  - a. Personnel who do not meet the requirements of section 2
  - b. Personnel who are known COVID-19 positive within the last 5 days
  - c. Personnel who have an active fever ( > 6 hours) and trouble breathing
4. Where to test:
  - a. Tests shall be performed in a well ventilated area at least 200 square feet in size, examples include:
    - i. Apparatus bays
    - ii. Training rooms
5. What to wear while testing:
  - a. Paramedics performing the BinaxNOW / iHealth test shall wear the following during the testing process:
    - i. Eye protection / face shield
    - ii. Gloves
    - iii. Gown
    - iv. Mask
      1. N-95 that is rated for aerosolization or N-95 with surgical mask over top
      2. P100 mask / filters rated for aerosolization
6. Consent for testing:
  - a. Those who wish to obtain the BinaxNOW / iHealth test via CDHMESS providers as outlined above must give verbal consent to the test at the time of the test. This can be revoked at any time verbally by the personnel being tested
7. Disposal of testing equipment
  - a. Tests and all equipment utilized in the testing process shall be disposed of in a biohazard bag within a receptacle with a lid that can remain closed between disposals. The FD or FPD is responsible for the proper disposal of all wasted and biohazardous material created in this process.
8. Documentation:
  - a. The agency will track via spreadsheet the following and maintain for no less than 7 years:
    - i. Name
    - ii. Date of birth
    - iii. Date of test
    - iv. Time of sample
    - v. Nare tested
    - vi. Time of results
    - vii. Results
  - b. The agency will report all positive and negative results to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) electronically. The reporting shall be completed within 4 hours of the completion of the test.

9. Care for complications of the BinaxNOW / iHealth test:
  - a. Epistaxis due to BinaxNOW / iHealth test shall be treated utilizing the training of the Paramedic administering the test.
    - i. Bleeding that continues for more than 15 minutes, will result in the personnel tested becoming an EMS patient. System policies regarding care and refusal shall apply at that point. An EMS report shall be created within ImageTrend and care shall follow CDHEMSS policies and Region 8 Standing Medical Orders (SMO)
10. Test Results
  - a. Interpretation
    - i. Interpretation of results shall be the responsibility of the testing agency and not CDHEMSS
  - b. Positive
    - i. Should a tested person yield a positive result, the testing agency shall immediately send them home and advise him or her to obtain an additional test following their agency's infection control measures.
    - ii. Agencies shall follow all local, state and federal guidelines for quarantine and return to work statuses
    - iii. A confirmatory PCR test shall be obtained within 48 hours of the BinaxNOW results.
  - c. Negative
    - i. Should a tested person yield a negative result, but shows signs and symptoms of COVID-19, the agency shall follow all local, state and federal guidelines for continuing to work, quarantine or return to work, including but not limited to additional testing utilizing PCR technology.
    - ii. A confirmatory PCR test shall be obtained within 48 hours of the BinaxNOW results.
11. Quality improvement:
  - a. When possible two BinaxNOW / iHealth approved Paramedics shall be at the test. The first Paramedic shall be the one performing the test, while the second will witness (with all required PPE) to validate the process and steps.

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