

**MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF THE
COUNTY OF ERIE**



Family Choice
OF NEW YORK

JERICHO ROAD
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER



**WNY COVID Working Group
February 15, 2021**

- **Widespread testing is essential to controlling the pandemic.**
- **PCR testing is the gold standard for testing. Antigen testing has lower accuracy, and confirmatory PCR testing is strongly encouraged when an antigen test is negative in symptomatic patients and in people with a close contact exposure. For socioeconomic and other reasons, it may not be possible to get confirmatory testing. This should not discourage providers from ordering an antigen test.**
- **Providers should be aware of the properties of the test they are ordering.**
- **Social distancing, masking and other public health measures should be maintained no matter what test results are obtained at any point in time.**
- **Testing a patient immediately after an exposure may not detect an early infection. It can take 5 to 7 days (or more) after exposure for a test to turn positive.**
- **Testing only reflects a person's status at a single point in time. A negative test does not eliminate the need for quarantine.**
- **Testing does not predict infectiousness for convalescent patients. Patients with mild or moderate COVID-19 are not infectious starting 10 days after symptoms first appear, if they have been afebrile for at least 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications, and symptoms of COVID are improving.* Tests can remain positive for up to 90 days.**
- **Except as mandated by local, state or federal governments, employers should not require a negative test to return to work following completion of 10 days of isolation or quarantine.**

****except loss of taste for smell, which may last for weeks or months.***

continued

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The ILI/COVID Working Group of Western New York was formed in response to local variation in approach to the diagnosis and treatment of Influenza-Like-Illness and COVID-19 in the region. It is a collaborative effort of hospital systems, academic departments, independent practice associations, and insurers. The logos and signatures on this document represent the organizations' support of this statement.

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