



# Ordering COVID-19 Testing Prior to Dental Procedures

*Testing protocol for urgent high-risk dental procedures which require significant aerosol*

Updated July 22, 2020.

## Key principles

1. Resources for COVID-19 testing continue to expand in Rhode Island. For the most current list of testing locations, visit the *Testing* section of the website.
2. Dental providers may order testing for patients prior to time-sensitive procedures where effective control of aerosol is not possible.
3. Those ordering tests should have a full understanding of what the test provides. See [Tests and Testing for COVID-19 by Glick](#) for details.

## Process

1. Evaluate patient first by phone to assess urgency of visit and to screen for any [symptoms of COVID-19](#).
2. Actively screen for fever and symptoms of COVID-19 before patient enters the facility. Evaluate treatment need to address urgent or emergent need. Consider testing if aerosol required and cannot be controlled with isolation strategies.
3. Go to <https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/for/providers/testforyourpatients/> to review provider testing options. Use [online COVID ordering system](#) which will require initial registration using your dental license number and National Provider Identifier (NPI).
4. Results should be obtained within three to five hours
  - a. If positive, refer to primary care physician or [respiratory clinic](#) to manage and coordinate outpatient care. Call the RIDOH COVID Hotline, 401-654-6990 for additional guidance.
  - b. If negative, again actively screen for fever and symptoms of COVID-19 before patient enters the facility, avoid family in waiting room, and use appropriate PPE for aerosol-generating procedure. Proceed with urgent care using aerosol minimally. Disinfect room according to [CDC guidance](#) using required contact time.
5. Provide antibiotic/analgesic/other palliative measures as appropriate until negative test result received and care can be managed.