

Nantucket Coronavirus Testing Advisory | April 9, 2020

- The coronavirus testing criteria continues to evolve, and in some cases it changes day to day, but it has become less restrictive from the time we launched the drive-through evaluation site on March 16.
- Our current testing capacity essentially allows us to test all those patients who the clinical team feel have a need to be tested. If you are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, and fever, please come to the drive-through evaluation site. The turnaround time for test results has been reduced to 24 hours in most cases.
- Patients coming to the drive through should know that specimens are sent out daily, weather permitting, at 3 p.m. to the mainland, so there's a faster turnaround time if patients are swabbed before then. Coming after 3 p.m. means turnaround time could be around 48 hours.
- The hours for the drive-through evaluation site remain 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily.
- Please note that this Sunday, April 12th, the drive-through will be open 8:30 a.m. to noon, and closed in the afternoon. Regular hours will resume on Monday.
- This week NCH will be able to launch some limited in-house testing utilizing the Cepheid analyzer in the NCH lab.
- Given that our initial capacity will be small, this service will be used in very limited circumstances when it can make a significant difference in patient care, for example:
 - Testing inpatients who are considered patients under investigation (PUIs) for COVID-19
 - Some critical circumstances when there are NCH staff members with suspected cases and we want to determine whether it's safe for them to return to work
 - Town of Nantucket first responders
 - All other coronavirus tests will continue to happen at the drive-through evaluation site and be sent to a lab with greater capacity
- We hope this in-house testing capacity will expand in the weeks ahead but there is no timeframe.