

**MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF THE
COUNTY OF ERIE**



**Erie County
Department of
Health**



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



**Catholic
Health**



Kaleida Health



**Family Choice
OF NEW YORK**



**JERICHO ROAD
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**

Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
Division of Behavioral Medicine
University at Buffalo



**OPTIMUM
PHYSICIAN
ALLIANCE**



Catholic Medical Partners
INDEPENDENT PRACTICE ASSOCIATION



Aesthetic Associates Centre
Plastic Surgery • Cosmetics • Implant Dentistry



PRIMARYCARE IPA
ADVOCACY. VITALITY. STABILITY.



**general
physician
pc**



BlueCross BlueShield
of Western New York



Designed for members of
BlueCross
BlueShield



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

Signed:

Gale Burstein, MD, MPH
Erie County Department of Health

Richard A. Carlson, Jr., MD
Primary Care IPA

Richard Charles, MD
General Physician, PC

Joe Chow, MD
Immediate Care

Tyler Connine, MD
UB Emergency Medicine Residency

Tanvir Dara, MD
WellNow Urgent Care

Kathleen Dyson, MD
Community Pediatric Associates of WNY

Aimana ElBahtity, Esq.
Medical Society of Erie County

John Fudyma, MD, MPH
Latus Medical Care

Ken Garbarino, MD
Family Choice of New York

Kevin Gibbons, MD
UBMD

Kathleen Grisanti, MD
Pediatric and Adolescent Urgent Care
of WNY

Ed Heidelberger, MD, PhD
Bertrand Chaffee Hospital

Allana Krolkowski, MD
Jericho Road

Jeffrey Lackner, PsyD
UB Division of Behavioral Medicine

Charlene Ludlow, RN, MHA
Erie County Medical Center

James C. Matteliano, DDS
Eighth District Dental Society

Jason Matuszak, MD
Excelsior Orthopaedics

Mike Merrill, MD, MS, MBA
Independent Health

Katherine Mullin, MD
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Jamie Nadler, MD
Kaleida Health

Margaret Paroski, MD, MMM
Catholic Medical Partners

Sucharita Paul, MD, MPH
UBMD Emergency Medicine

Mark F. Perry, MD
BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York

John Sellick, DO, MS
VA Western New York Healthcare System

Samuel Shatkin, MD
Aesthetic Associates Center

Kevin Shiley, MD
Catholic Health

Stephen Turkovich, MD
Oishei Children's Hospital

Rick Vienne, DO
Univera Healthcare

Raul Vazquez, MD
Urban Family Practice

Joyce Zmuda, MD
Optimum Physician Alliance

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.

Legal Notice and Disclaimer: Please note that the information contained in these resources does not establish a standard of care, nor does it constitute legal or medical advice. These guidelines reflect the best available data at the time the information was prepared. The results of future studies may require revisions to the information in this guideline to reflect new data. This information is not intended to replace individual provider clinical judgment in the care of their patients. Neither this workgroup, or any contributor to this effort, makes any representations or warranties, express or implied, with respect to the information provided herein or to its use.