ED COVID-19 admission testing protocol

Goal: Facilitate expedited testing of all admissions that come through the ED.

Main Categories:
Medical/Pediatric/P6 Admissions
Surgical Admissions

Medical/Peds/P6 Admissions:
• 3 Subgroups include Known COVID, Screen positive (PUI), Screen Negative non-PUI (Admin test).
• Whenever possible the ED will expedite testing for all medical admits.
• In no instance will it be expected that a patient boards in the ED awaiting testing results.
• In no instance will a time dependent intervention for a life-threatening illness be delayed pending testing.
• In some time-sensitive instances ED based COVID testing will not be possible. In these cases, testing will be left to the inpatient or procedural team to complete.

Known COVID Positives:
If known COVID (+) status is confirmable, no need for addition PCR testing.
If COVID (+) status is not able to be confirmed, testing may be repeated as indicated.
Emergent care initiated in the ED, inpatient care/transfer expedited to inpt COVID unit.

Screen Positive (PUI):
Priority #1 COVID PCR testing we be initiated as soon as admission is anticipated. We suspect there will be individuals who will be tested and not go on to be admitted, this is OK.
In no instance will it be expected that a patient waits in the ED pending COVID testing results to allow for bed placement.

Screen negative non-PUI (ADMIN test):
ADMIN COVID PCR testing will be initiated as soon as admission is anticipated. We suspect there will be individuals who will be tested and not go on to be admitted, this is OK.
• Patient will be assigned to a non-COVID/non-PUI unit pending results.
• If indicated patient can go to a Non-COVID procedure arena pending COVID testing/results.
• In no instance will it be expected that a patient waits in the ED pending COVID testing results to allow for bed placement.
• Patients in the Admin (non-PUI) group can refuse testing but please make every effort must be made to convince/obtain.

Surgical/Procedural Admissions:
• 3 Subgroups include Known COVID, Screen positive (PUI), Screen Negative non-PUI (Admin test).
• Whenever possible the ED will expedite testing for all surgical/procedural admits.
• In no instance will it be expected that a patient boards in the ED awaiting testing results.
• In no instance will a time dependent intervention for a life-threatening illness be delayed pending testing.
• In some time-sensitive instances ED based COVID testing will not be possible. In these cases, testing will be left to the inpatient or surgical/procedural team to complete.
• Patients will not be returned to the ED post procedure to await test results or appropriate bed.

Known COVID:
If emergent goes to COVID OR
If non emergent and no OR availability expected in short term (<4hrs), goes to COVID unit awaiting OR.

Screen Positive (PUI):
If emergent goes to COVID OR
If non emergent goes to COVID/PUI unit. Does not wait in ED for COVID result.

Screen negative non-PUI (ADMIN test):
Goes to Non-COVID OR if emergent.
Goes to Non-COVID floor or ASU if OR not available.
Does not wait in ED for COVID result.
• Patients in the Admin (non-PUI) group can refuse testing but please make every effort must be made to convince/obtain.
Key ED Testing Procedural Notes:
- ED-PUI admits will be tested while using the appropriate airborne isolation requirements, every attempt will be made to expedite testing (ie. Do not wait for admission status to be confirmed).
- NON-PUI Admits can be tested in a neutral pressure environment using air-borne PPE (N95/Shield vs PAPR).
- Care must be taken to order the correct type of test!
  - PUI admits get Priority #1
  - Some PUI non-admits get non-priority testing (per current protocol)
  - Non-PUI Admits get ADMIN test
- KNOWN COVID NEGATIVES (tested within 72hr period) from a MaineHealth, without new symptoms do not need testing.
- Patients in the Admin (non-PUI) group can refuse testing but please make every effort must be made to convince/obtain.

Testing Point person:
In order of preference by ED treatment area:

COVID Unit:
- Primary RN or Provider

Non-isolation area:
- ED Coordinator will help determine point person, likely Coordinator, Triage RN or other RN/Provider with proper PPE. DO not need negative pressure for Admin test (non-PUI), do need airborne precautions.