Rationale: Given increasing community spread of COVID-19 and the need to minimize risk of exposure to healthcare workers, UW Medicine implemented a protocol for all patients being admitted to UW Medicine hospitals for COVID-19. Patients will undergo surveillance testing for COVID-19 on admission and re-testing if the patient’s clinical condition changes. This expanded testing is made possible by current lab capabilities at UW Virology and is dependent on testing availability.

NOTE: A negative surveillance test on admission should not be overinterpreted, i.e. new or progressive symptoms concerning for COVID-19* must be followed-up and repeat testing should be considered.

COVID-19 Surveillance Testing should be performed:

- For all patients being admitted to the hospital (including planned admissions and transfers) who have not been tested for COVID-19 in the prior 3 days
- Weekly in patients undergoing regular aerosol generating procedures
- Weekly in patients with 2 initial negative screens (3 days apart) who have remained inpatient, asymptomatic, are undergoing a distinct aerosol generating procedure (i.e. intubation)

Protocol:

Asymptomatic patients undergoing COVID19 surveillance testing on admission or repeat testing:

- Standard Precautions (e.g. COVID-19 precautions not needed for screening asymptomatic patients)
- Patient can remain on their current unit or admitted by usual protocols for precautions
- No approval for surveillance testing is needed. Ordering provider to enter COVID-19 PCR order
- For asymptomatic patients who will be undergoing same day aerosol-generating procedures, for HMC and UWMC Montlake consider rapid COVID19 testing if available (use site specific guidance)
- Obtain nasopharyngeal swab per protocol. When obtaining the NP swab, use standard/contact/droplet precautions: mask, eye protection, gown, and gloves. No need for COVID-19 isolation precautions as this is an asymptomatic patient.

Symptomatic* patients, patients in whom no history can be obtained, or patients with lung imaging findings concerning for COVID-19 – recommend COVID-19 evaluation per usual protocol using PPE for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19.

If COVID testing is positive or inconclusive:

- Place in appropriate precautions (if not there already) per PPE for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19
- For HMC, UWMC Montlake and Northwest, please follow already established Lab processes (Unit Charge RNs and ordering providers are contacted)

*Symptoms concerning for COVID-19 include cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, GI symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea), headache or runny nose