COVID-19 TESTING: <u>INFORMATION FOR PERSONS TESTED</u>

Thank you for your voluntary consent to being tested for COVID-19 by our SC House Calls team. By being proactive and testing for the virus, we are able to help combat the spread of COVID-19 and are able to better protect ourselves, families, healthcare personnel, patients, and our communities.

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR COVID-19 TESTING

Call us at any of our locations:

Columbia, SC: (803) 415-6133   **Myrtle Beach, SC:** (843) 448-2228
Little River, SC: (843) 756-2122   **Loris, SC:** (843) 756-2122
Murrells Inlet, SC: (843) 357-3100   **Bennettsville, SC:** (843) 479-3838
Conway, SC: (843) 349-0913

*For **group appointments of 3 or more** people, please let us know ahead of time so we may schedule accordingly

*If you are a SC House Calls patient and need a COVID-19 test, please call us at (800) 491-0909

When to Get Tested

If you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who has symptoms, **you may get a Viral COVID-19 Test as early as 5 days after the exposure**. If you have symptoms (listed on page 2), you should be tested immediately.

Payment Information

Your insurance will be billed for the COVID-19 test, please contact your insurance company for specific questions. Your usual co-pay and deductible may still apply. If you are uninsured, your test may be covered by government funding. Please contact our team for additional information.

COVID-19 TESTS – Viral and Antibody Tests

Our COVID-19 tests are provided by Mako Medical. Mako Laboratories are CLIA and CAP accredited, and all COVID-19 tests are FDA approved.

Test results will typically be available 48 – 72 hours after testing. We call you with your results and they will be posted in your patient portal for you to view electronically.

There are two kinds of tests available for COVID-19: Viral Tests and Antibody Tests.

- *Viral Test*: Tells you if you have a current infection. Once exposed to the virus, it has to be in your body for a certain period of time before it will show up as a Positive COVID-19 Viral Test Result – this is called the incubation period. **The average incubation period from the date of infection (the date of exposure) - is approximately 5 days**. **Therefore, this test may be performed as early as 5 days after infection/exposure.**

- *Antibody Test for IgG*: According to the CDC, a positive test result shows you may have antibodies from an infection with the virus that causes COVID-19, or possibly from infection with a related virus from the same family of viruses (called coronavirus), such as one that causes the common cold.

"Viral Test" Results

If you test <u>NEGATIVE</u> for COVID-19 by a viral test: According to the CDC, you probably were not infected at the time your sample was collected. However, that does not mean you will not get sick. The test result only means that you did not have COVID-19 at the time of testing. If you have symptoms or start having symptoms, you should keep monitoring symptoms and seek medical advice about staying home and if you need to get tested again.

If you test <u>POSITIVE</u> for COVID-19 by a viral test, the CDC recommends taking the following steps: Stay home and isolate from others, get rest and stay hydrated, take over-the-counter medicines such as acetaminophen (ex: Tylenol) to

help you feel better, contact your physician, avoid public areas, monitor your symptoms, wear a face mask when around others, cover coughs and sneezes, wash your hands often, clean high-touch surfaces, and seek emergency medical attention if someone is showing any of the following signs: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay asleep, and/or blush lips or face. If you are a healthcare or critical infrastructure worker, notify your work of your test result. SC Department of Health and Human Services (SC DHEC) will be notified of your positive test result and will assist you in contact tracing to inform others you have come into contact with, that they have been exposed.

Re-Testing Best Practices

- According to the CDC, you may be fully recovered 10 days after the infection date (exposure date) as long as you have been symptom-free for 3 consecutive days and may be re-tested at that time.

- If a person is unaware of their exact infection/exposure date, it is considered to be 48 hours prior to the date that the first positive test was conducted (i.e. the date the specimen was taken).

- The average incubation period is 5-days, therefore, if you test positive, you may be re-tested as early as 5 days after your positive test if you have no symptoms for 3 consecutive days.

- If you are re-tested after the 5-day incubation period and have a positive result, you may be re-tested again 14 days after your exposure date *or* after being symptom-free for 3 consecutive days, whichever is sooner.

- Healthcare personnel should have 2 consecutive Negative Viral Test results taken at minimum, 24 hours apart to be considered COVID-19 free.

IgG Antibody Test Results

If you test **<u>POSITIVE</u>** for the IgG Antibody Test: According to the CDC, "a positive test result shows you may have antibodies from an infection with the virus that causes COVID-19, or possibly from infection with a related virus from the same family of viruses, such as one that causes the common cold. We do not know yet if having antibodies to the virus that causes COVID-19 can protect someone from getting infected again or, if they do, how long this protection might last. You should continue to protect yourself and others since it's possible you could get infected with the virus again."

If you test **<u>NEGATIVE</u>** for the IgG Antibody Test: According to the CDC, "The test may be negative because it typically takes 1 to 3 weeks after infection to develop antibodies. It's possible you could still get sick if you have been exposed to the virus recently. This means you could still spread the virus. Some people may take even longer to develop antibodies, and some people may not develop antibodies.

According to the CDC, "An antibody (blood) test cannot tell if you are currently sick with COVID-19. Regardless of whether you test positive or negative, the results do not confirm whether or not you are able to spread the virus that causes COVID-19."

Higher Risk

According to the CDC, the following people are at a higher risk for severe illness due to CVOID-19: Senior adults, and people who are immunocompromised, have asthma, HIV, liver disease, dementia, disabilities, pregnant or breastfeeding, homeless, ethnic minority groups, or those who recently entered the country.

Symptoms

Many people who have COVID-19, are asymptomatic, meaning they do not any symptoms, or they have mild to moderate symptoms that typically would not warrant a visit to the doctor. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. According to the CDC, COVID-19 symptoms may include, but are not limited to the following: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny rose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea.

Please visit <u>CDC.gov</u> for the most updated and complete COVID-19 information