Testing Criteria for COVID-19 in the Emergency Department

Potentially Symptomatic or Patients Under Investigation (PUI):

- Patients exhibit a range of signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19. We recommend testing for patients presenting with the following:
  - Symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath)
  - Or at least two of the following:
    - Fever (subjective or confirmed)
    - Chills or repeated shaking with chills
    - Muscle pain
    - Headache
    - Sore throat
    - New loss of taste or smell

Asymptomatic, Non-PUI individuals:

- Patients may not exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 yet be able to spread the virus. Promote universal masking in the ED. The following patients even without symptoms should be tested:
  - Patient needing inpatient care including psychiatric admission at UVMMC.
  - Patients who need COVID-19 test prior to discharge or transfer to a new congregate setting such as a nursing home, rehab facility, psychiatric facility or Assist.
  - Patient expected to have a procedure within 48 hours.

* UVMMC has a COVID-19 Hotline for providers to support decision-making in the care of patients suspected of having COVID-19: (802) 847-8787.

Procedure for ED Testing:

- Provider places order for COVID-19 in EPIC.
  - Appropriately designate if symptomatic/PUI or asymptomatic/Non-PUI
- Complete VDH Requisition and answer prioritization questions on the form — it is available at Desk or through Epic link or on intranet site
- You no longer need to call VDH – 802-863-7240. You may call if you have questions.
- Collect a single nasopharyngeal swab to send to lab with VDH Requisition.
- Test Results will be returned to a COVID In basket being monitored by staff who will notify the patient.
- Infectious Disease Consult is recommended for cases where there is uncertainty or refusal of recommended testing and situations of disagreement in patients who are being hospitalized.