

COVID-19 EID Team Update



Friday, Jan. 21

Oklahoma COVID-19 Risk Level



Cleveland County's current risk level (as well as most of the state's counties) is: **Moderate**

The Oklahoma State Department of Health has developed the Oklahoma COVID-19 Risk Level System; a four-tiered risk measurement tool with corresponding color categories that identify the current COVID-19 risk level. This tool offers the public and local elected officials an easy way to recognize each county's risk level. Find specific guidelines for each color-coded risk level and see county-specific risk levels [here](#).

DO NOT Use ER for COVID Testing

Due to the Omicron variant and recent surge of COVID cases, we are seeing a large number of people coming into the ER solely for COVID testing.

The ER should be used for emergencies only so our emergency medicine healers can help those who need us most.

We are currently pushing communication urging community members to NOT use the ER for COVID testing using social media, flyers, ads, and more, but we also need your help. Our healers are our best asset and we ask that you spread this message whenever possible – share the social posts, encourage friends and family to seek testing at dedicated locations, etc. [Please print the attached flyer for your area.](#)

Norman Regional's testing location is available for appointments. All COVID testing is being done at the Respiratory Clinic at Norman Regional Moore, 700 S. Telephone Rd. in Moore or at 101 Triad Village Dr. in Norman. Those needing testing can easily schedule an appointment at [NormanRegional.com/lab](https://www.normanregional.com/lab). They can also find a list of local testing locations at [TestOKC.com](https://www.testokc.com).

For healers needing testing, please remember the process is as follows:

- Healers who think they need to be tested should inform their leader and self-schedule online at www.clockwisemd.com/groups/692.
- Select COVID Test – NRHS Healer as the reason for visit. Complete all fields on the intake form. We are handling healer specimens separately to expedite testing. If you have difficulty scheduling via the link, please call the COVID Hotline number at 405-515-4328. Add this number to your phone!
- Results will be available for healers on the Patient Portal. To ensure access to results, please proactively access your Hospital Patient Portal prior to collection. You may also request to receive your results via secure email by completing the form found at: [NormanRegional.com/request](https://www.normanregional.com/request). Please do not call the Lab to ask for your results.

The goal is to facilitate quick, quality results so that healers can get back to work as quickly and safely as possible.

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DO NOT Use ER for COVID Testing Cont'd.

Please remember that healers who test positive for COVID-19, Influenza or both must contact Employee Health at 405-307-1773.

Healers who Test Negative

1. Return to work once you have not had any fever for at least 24 hours and without the use of fever-reducing medications and your symptoms have improved.
 - a. Coordinate return to work with your department leadership.

Healers who Test Positive

1. Healers who are moderately to severely immunocompromised must contact Employee Health for further instructions.
2. Healers with mild to moderate illness may return to work after 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - a. Healer may return to work once they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications and symptoms have improved.
 - b. Healers should not return to work if they are still experiencing symptoms.
 - c. Coordinate your return with your department leadership and Employee Health.

N-95 Masks Available

NRHS has a large supply of 8210 N-95s. These are available for non-patient facing healers. As such, FIT testing is not required. These N-95s are not considered for use as a respirator.

Details on how your department can order the N-95s:

- The MT # is 048285.
- If your department plans to order it routinely going forward, email your buyer;
- Request MT 048285 be added to the department Meditech Reoccurring Requisition Template(s) and provide the cost center(s).
- N-95s come in a box of 20 or a case of 160

COVID Guidelines

With the rise in COVID cases, hospitalizations and breakthrough cases driven by the Omicron variant, the EID team wants to remind all healers it is especially important to adhere to NRHS masking guidelines, temperature screenings, social distancing and utilizing virtual meetings and conferences.

U.S. Supreme Court Overturns the Injunction on CMS COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Workers

On Jan. 13, the Supreme Court overturned the stay of the CMS COVID-19 vaccine mandate in the 25 injunction states. Oklahoma was one of the 25 states.

The Supreme Court judges focused on the fact that those seeking health care services at this time are likely more susceptible to contracting the COVID-19 virus, and stated, "ensuring that providers take steps to avoid transmitting a dangerous virus to their patients is consistent with the fundamental principle of the medical profession: first, do no harm. It would be the "very opposite of efficient and effective administration for a facility that is supposed to make people well to make them sick with COVID-19."

For Norman Regional Health System, this means the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) will begin enforcement of the mandate for the first or single vaccination dose on Monday, February 14 and the second or full vaccination dose on Tuesday, March 15. This CMS rule is a requirement for all hospitals and health systems participating in Medicare and Medicaid programs. It also requires actual documentation of COVID-19 vaccine status for every healer in the organization.

More details and requirements of the COVID-19 vaccine mandate will be provided next week.

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Labor Pool Support Plan

The recent surge in COVID cases has strained healthcare services across our state and region. To help support our team at Norman Regional, the health system has started using Incident Command for a labor pool support plan. We are doing this process to ensure high quality and safe care while moving patients through our health system. This means:

- **Today, Friday January 21 from 3 p.m. through 7 a.m. Monday January 24, we are reducing the hours of Incident Command due to the change in deployment of staff to a 24 hour process.**
- **If there are questions or support needed from Incident Command during this time period, please use the 24/7 Security Dispatch number 405-307-1482.**
- A Labor Pool has been set up. This will allow us to deploy our workforce to the most-needed areas for extra support. Two and four hour shifts have been established. We will also monitor how this process is working with a feedback form to be completed by healers after each shift.
- Information about how to sign up for the Labor Pool can be found on the homepage of [MyLink](#). Please click the icon at the top with the NRHS logo and a red exclamation mark. Please use Google Chrome to open MyLink. Once open hit the Shift and F5 keys on your computer to refresh the page. There is an issue with the page in Internet Explorer and we are working to correct this. You can also find the sign ups by clicking each of the department names: [Lab](#) and [Labor Pool Support](#).



Norman Regional Health System



Site Search

See a full list of areas needing help and their job descriptions then sign up for a labor pool shift at the below links:

[Lab](#) [Labor Pool Support](#)

Healers working in the hospitals will work in groups of two, two-hour shifts. They will be rounding on departments in need. After each shift, healers will be emailed a survey to share their feedback so we can improve this process. Lab offers several types of shifts for the Triad Village COVID Testing Site.

- Report to Incident Command to sign in and pick up your checklist of tasks
- Support your co-healers, patients and visitors
- End your shift and return your checklist to INCIDENT COMMAND
- Complete the feedback form that will be emailed to you

Clinical or nonclinical, we are all healers and your help is greatly needed and appreciated!

Free, At-Home COVID Tests

The U.S. Postal Service now offers an opportunity for households to order and receive through the mail four at-home COVID-19 testing kits. Simply fill out the form on the [USPS website](#) and your kits will ship in late January. Learn more about the free at-home test kits [here](#).