

CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19 CHECKLIST FOR ALL miniER PATIENTS GUIDELINES DATED AUGUST 27, 2021

PLEASE NOTE: As of *September 01, 2021*, due to staff shortages and unpredictable allotment/acquisition of COVID testing materials, the miniER will be temporarily suspending all walk-in COVID testing. All COVID testing will shift to being pre-scheduled using the SolvHealth link on your computer or portable device or via the “Book Online” link on our website home page. Routine medical illnesses and injuries may of course still be seen on a walk-in basis. Look here for updates and changes to our walk-in COVID testing status.

We are open 7 days a week and staff hours have not been cut in order to continue to serve the community as we have for the past 13 years. However, to give our staff a much-needed break, we will be **CLOSED Labor Day 2021 (September 06) and CLOSED November 24th (Wednesday) and November 25th(Thursday) for Thanksgiving.**

Everyone must wear a facial mask when entering the facility and leave it in place in all areas of the clinic. This is non-negotiable and you will need to be seen elsewhere if you decline/refuse to wear a mask.

We are pleased to continue the capacity to do rapid COVID-19 testing on site utilizing NP (nasopharyngeal) swabs with results available in less than 15 minutes from the time the swab is complete. This is an immunofluorescent assay run on the Quidel Sofia 2 platform here on the premises, and we are testing patients 10 years old and up (based on swab size required for an adequate sample). Due to unpredictable manufacturer supply of test kits because of overwhelming national demand, we may be using the CareStart antigen test kit which is a lateral flow immunochromatographic assay intended for the qualitative detection of the nucleocapsid protein antigen from SARS-CoV-2. Because of the Delta variant, and increased demand for testing, we are adhering to a strict MAXIMUM of 25 rapid COVID tests per day, 7 days a week, and they are on a first come, first served basis with no exceptions after the daily allotment of tests is used. There will be days when we cannot perform any rapid testing due to test manufacturer determined allocation of test kits for our particular clinic or geographic area.

We encourage all patients without symptoms to book test screening on our website through the SolvHealth app located upper right of our website home page under the “Book Online” button. Cash price for COVID screening for asymptomatic patients not seeing a provider is \$85, all others will be run through your insurance if we take your plan. We also are still providing the COVID-19 antibody test via venipuncture (a blood draw) which will be sent to a local reference lab, with results in back in 3-4 days based on recent turnaround times. We will be using only one room of the clinic for rapid testing, and depending on demand, we may be asking patients to sign in and do paperwork up front and meet us in our lab to do the nasal swab and have you return to the waiting room, or be escorted to an exam room, depending on availability. If demand is overwhelming, we may even be doing swabs from your car after insurance is verified or other payment has been established.

Be aware that most health insurance providers require you to be *seen by a provider and have an office visit* if being tested for COVID in order for the visit to be covered. Thus, you may not be able to have just a swab and wait elsewhere for results if you are using insurance.

About our rapid COVID-19 antigen tests:

Antigen tests produce results faster than their molecular counterparts (the RT-PCR tests). They are made to quickly detect fragments of proteins found on/ within the virus by testing samples collected from nasal swabs. Molecular, or RT-PCR tests, were developed to detect nucleic acid (genetic material) from SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Those tests take longer, are slightly more accurate, but are more expensive and harder to obtain for the outpatient setting. Be aware that many travel authorities and destination countries require the RT-PCR test and may not accept the results of our antigen test- it is the responsibility of the traveler/patient to find out which test is accepted. As is required by law, we will be reporting all testing (either positive or negative results) to the Orange County Health Department which includes your name, contact information, race, DOB, and other demographic data. This is mandatory, not voluntary per government regulations.