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# REVIEW

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HOSPITALS ON  
THE COVID-19  
FRONTLINES



## Rapid COVID-19 Testing at Virginia Hospital Center



Virginia Hospital Center (VHC) was among the first hospitals in the area to have the Abbott ID NOW COVID-19 test, the fastest available molecular point-of-care test for the detection of novel coronavirus. The Abbott test, which can deliver positive results in as little as five minutes and negative results in 13 minutes, allows VHC to proactively manage the safety of our patients and staff.

“Access to testing remains a crucial step in controlling the COVID-19 pandemic,” said VHC Chief Medical Officer Jeffrey DiLisi, MD, MBA. “Our ability to use this rapid result test is a great step forward in protecting the safety of our patients, staff, and community.”

VHC is also participating in two initiatives aimed at developing treatments for COVID-19: a national clinical trial to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of the antiviral drug remdesivir and Mayo Clinic’s investigational convalescent plasma program. Eligible hospitalized adult patients with severe or life-threatening COVID-19 can now enroll in either program through VHC.

“Virginia Hospital Center is always at the forefront when it comes to innovative methods that protect the safety of our patients, staff and community,” said Dr. DiLisi. “Increasing our understanding of potential treatments for this novel coronavirus is a critical next step in controlling the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Virginia Hospital Center was among the first in the region to set up a drive-through site to facilitate widespread testing for COVID-19. VHC partnered with the Arlington County Public Health Department, Arlington County Police Department, Arlington County Fire Department, Arlington County Sheriff’s Office, and the Department of Environmental Services to open a drive-through COVID-19 sample collection site in Arlington County. The site increased capacity for collections at a much needed time.

“Arlington County is appreciative of our partnership with Virginia Hospital Center to facilitate sample collection for our community at this drive-through center,” said Arlington County Board Chair Libby Garvey. “This is an important collaborative effort at a critical time.”

VHC then lent the expertise gained at the drive-through site to further assist Arlington County and the Arlington Free Clinic in opening their first walk-up sample collection site making testing more readily available to community members without access to a car.

The Hospital’s advanced level of preparedness and ability to adapt as circumstances have evolved has now allowed VHC to reopen its doors to the community with a detailed set of procedures in place to keep patients, the community, and staff safe. ♡