June 24, 2020

Dear UMB Partner,

The University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) is offering voluntary serologic testing to - **UMB faculty, staff and contractors who work in clinical areas, interact with patients or patient samples, or provide direct support to patient care areas.** – free of charge.

Serologic testing is used to determine if an individual has produced antibodies against the COVID-19 virus. Unlike the diagnostic testing performed on symptomatic individuals, serologic testing requires a blood test, rather than a nasal swab.

Testing for UMMC will take place at:

DTC – First Floor in the Sim Center, Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

MTC – First Floor Draw Center, Monday – Friday 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Testing is voluntary and **by appointment only**. All who chose to make an appointment for serology testing must sign-up electronically. Instructions to sign up for an appointment are attached to this email and can also be found on the [UMMC Insider](http://intra.umms.org/ummc/departments/infection/outbreaks-and-novel-infections/ummc-covid19/employee-testing).

[Downtown Campus Sign Up](https://www.umms.org/ummc/employee-serology-testing)

[Midtown Campus Sign Up](https://www.umms.org/midtown/employee-serology-testing)

Those who sign up will receive an email confirming their appointment and are to bring a printed copy of the confirmation to their appointment. Registration and testing may take up to 20 minutes, from start to finish.

Please note that The DTC and MTC serology testing centers will be closed on 7/3/20 for the holiday.

We will need your help notifying your team of this new process. Details that will be helpful when notifying your team of testing eligibility:

* Testing is voluntary
* Testing is free of charge
* Results will be kept in your medical record in EPIC. They will not be used for employment purposes, but de-identified data may be used for infection prevention and other occupational health purposes. Identified data is subject to acceptable disclosures under HIPAA and other privacy laws.
* All who choose to participate will need to present an UMMS ID badge
* All who choose to participate will be asked to answer a few survey questions to help the System identify meaningful trends among our workforce
* All who choose to participate will be asked to sign two consent forms upon checking in for testing:
  + Consent to have blood drawn and results stored in EPIC as a patient medical record
  + Consent to have remaining blood from sample used in research study
* All who choose to participate will receive more information about the test, when to expect results and what those results will mean at the testing site.
* The results of this testing will not change things like: patient care assignments, PPE protocols or the need to social distance. All of the precautions we’ve put in place will remain in place until we have a better understanding of how the presence of antibodies against this virus correlates with immunity.

Thank you, in advance, for your support and collaboration in this important initiative.