

COVID-19 UPDATE



ACL at-home COVID-19 patient lab pick-up process (Illinois)

Situation

ACL couriers indicated they were unable to pick up specimens from the home of COVID-19 patients, which necessitated clinicians to transport the specimen to the nearest lab drop-off location.

Background

Lab specimens obtained by Advocate Aurora Post Acute Illinois clinicians are transported to an ACL processing site by coordinating a pick-up time with the ACL courier. Questions arose about the need for additional precautions when receiving specimens from patients who are COVID-19 positive or a person under investigation (PUI). Currently, the lab courier wears gloves when picking up lab specimens placed into biohazard bag.

Assessment

ACL leaders, infection preventionist, CNO and clinical excellence reviewed the specimen pick-up procedures to identify a safe way to allow the couriers to pick-up the specimen using standard precaution and not entering the home.

Recommendation

Clinician to:

- obtain patient specimen
- call ACL for specimen pick-up at 800-877-7016, Option 3
- notify lab that patient is COVID-19 positive or PUI
- provide patient or family member's phone number
- receive a confirmation number from ACL

Lab courier will call the patient or family member, just prior to arrival at the home, to instruct patient or family member to place the specimen outside the residence doorway. Courier will pick-up and transport specimen per agency procedures.

Exception for patients with limited mobility or no available family member: clinician to coordinate with ACL for pick-up of specimen during clinician's visit.

Any Questions? Contact your site Director or
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