Dear Patient:

Your doctor has requested that you have testing for respiratory viruses. The Greenwich Hospital Specimen Collection Station is accessed by entering the Greenwich Hospital Employee Parking Garage on Lake Avenue in Greenwich, CT.

In order for the specimens to be collected, your doctor must have already faxed the orders to 203-863-4553 and you should have called 203-863-3053 to set up an appointment time.

Please arrive at the time you were given by your doctor. Five minutes before you expect to arrive, please call 203-863-3053 so that your specimen labels will be available at the testing Station.

Enter the garage and proceed as directed by signs and personnel. Stay in your car with the window up and do not get out of the car until you are directed to do so by the Specimen Collector waving you to come out of your car. Please shut your engine at all times except to advance forward and certainly have it off when you get out to have the specimens collected.

If you are having a test for the usual respiratory viruses, you will have a small swab placed deep in your nose. If you are having coronavirus (COVID-19) testing, you will have a second nose swab. Swabbing for the nasal specimens is uncomfortable for 15 seconds each. Please bring tissue to blow or wipe your nose and discard in the trash bin available.

Not every patient is being sent to the Specimen Collection Station for COVID-19 testing. Your physician should have told you before you go what test(s) you are having.

Please do not debate testing with the technologist obtaining the specimen(s). The technologist cannot change your doctor’s orders.

The technologist will be in protective gear and will perform hand hygiene and change of gloves between patients and will disinfect the exam seat between patients. You can stand for the test if you’d like.

Your physician will call you with the results of the tests in 5 days.

If you test positive for influenza, your physician may prescribe antiviral treatment for you.

If you test positive for any other virus including the coronavirus, there is currently no treatment, but you should stay at home and call your physician should you develop worsening symptoms and need to be reevaluated. Please monitor yourself for a fever that does not resolve, shortness of breath, and worsening lung symptoms. Please see the attached guidance from the CDC on COVID-19. If your physician tells you that you test positive for COVID-19, please quarantine yourself at home and follow the instructions you receive from your physician and the Health Department at that point.

We are happy to provide this service to you and your doctor.