



# December 12, 2020

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## PPE Crisis in Hospitals



Everyone knows about the basic facts of COVID-19 by now. But what are some new practices/policies in the hospital?

How are all hospital employees being protected? Is testing and PPE available for every employee (not just doctors and nurses)?



## Through the eyes of a hospital employee:

"For example, here when you've been possibly exposed to a confirmed case of COVID, the hospital does not test you for COVID and instead have you check your temperature morning and night for 10 days starting with the day of the exposure. You are expected to resume work as usual as long as you do not have a fever of 100.4 or more and do not present any symptoms. Those with confirmed cases of COVID do not get tested before returning to work, and are expected back to work once they are symptom free. As per our Occupational Health staff, the virus stays in your system for approximately 3 months. You are only contagious when symptoms are present, which is usually within the first 10 days. In comparison to other organizations who do not allow you to return to work until you test negative twice. The hospital explains that COVID test supplies are low."





## Why aren't there enough COVID-19 testing supplies?

- **Takes a long time** to build and deliver new equipment. It takes between 20 and 30 days for an order of high-throughput equipment to be delivered, for instance, and at least three to five days for it to be installed, calibrated, and validated for diagnostic testing.
- Newly installed equipment also **requires more trained personnel** to operate it.
- **Financial constraints** in many countries—government funding for public health laboratories, for example—can make it hard to build additional capacity.
- Major **shortages of materials** have been reported in RNA-extraction kits and certain reagents, including enzymes and primers.
- **Too much demand.** The global manufacturing capacity for molecular-assay tests is estimated to be between 37 million and 38 million tests a week, given current availability of the various test components, with RNA-extraction kits being the bottleneck to higher capacity.

# If you are interested at all, please support your local hospital and medical staff:

- Make monetary donations to non-profit hospitals
- Donate blood: Please schedule an appointment in advance at [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org)
- Check out Feeding The Frontline
  - grassroots initiative connecting people with restaurants to help not only medical workers, but also vulnerable populations and families who typically depend on schools for meals. You can also make a donation to Frontline Foods, which has launched a Covid Clinician Meal Support Program. As of April 1, they've raised \$700,000 and delivered over 7,300 meals throughout 13 cities.

American Red Cross

*Give blood.* Help save lives.



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These days, it's easy to feel helpless. But with one simple act, you can change that – donate blood and help save lives.

Grab a friend who shares your compassion, come to give blood between Oct. 17 and Dec. 17, 2020 and receive a \$10 e-gift card by email\*!  
Then have lunch on us as a thank you for your lifesaving support!

Schedule your appointment today using one of these easy methods:

- Visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org)
- Download the Blood Donor App
- Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

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Please schedule an appointment in advance at  
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<https://play.kahoot.it/v2/?quizId=46f574dd-f254-4c7a-9949-283421941952>

Join at **www.kahoot.it** with Game PIN: **318 5742**



# Meeting concluded!

Next meeting: Takotsubo

