

National Jewish Health Develops and Administers High-Performing COVID-19 Test

Pulmonologist David Beuther, MD, discusses the implementation of the test

National Jewish Health

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SOUNDBITES

CG: David Beuther, MD, PhD National Jewish Health	<p><i>“We have to get out there, and we have to find out who’s sick and who’s not.”</i></p> <p><i>“We’ve started with testing other institutions’ inpatients for them. We’re moving on to being able to test as many outpatients as want to come.”</i></p> <p><i>“Once we get that then we’ll schedule an appointment. So typically that’s going to be later in the same day or possibly the next day, and you come through the drive-thru testing center here on our main campus.”</i></p> <p><i>“The reason we keep you in your car is we’re trying to keep you safe and us safe from a healthcare worker standpoint, and ultimately what happens is there’s a little q-tip that goes into the nose. It goes pretty far into the nose because it has to get to the back to get a nice sample of what’s going on back there.”</i></p> <p><i>“Our scientists have set up a test that is actually more sensitive and higher-performing than the existing test, and we’re able to do that at a very high throughput.”</i></p> <p><i>“So we’ve actually gone to create the culture media and the collection swabs as well as the different techniques for extracting the RNA from the sample and running the sample.”</i></p> <p><i>“If we don’t have a lot of testing, if we don’t have the ability to identify people who are sick with this disease and quarantine them, then there’s really going to be no point in opening up businesses and freeing up our restrictions. We’ll just be back to the same place we were before.”</i></p>
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