

Updated: January 7, 2022

NIA Specialty Update

Use of CT to detect Coronavirus (COVID-19)

National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA) has been closely monitoring the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and its variants, as well as measures recommended by global health experts and government officials to protect patients and staff during this ongoing pandemic.

Although there was early literature indicating that computed tomography (CT) scan imaging may aid in the detection, quarantine and treatment of these patients, our recommendation is to utilize the American College of Radiology (ACR) Recommendations for the Use of Chest Radiography and Computed Tomography (CT) for Suspected COVID-19 Infection. These recommendations are available [here](#).

The key points of these recommendations are:

- The CDC does NOT recommend the use of CXR or CT to diagnose COVID-19. Viral testing remains the only specific method of diagnosis. Confirmation with a viral test is required, even if incidental radiologic findings are suggestive of COVID-19 on CXR or CT.
- Advanced outpatient CT imaging may be helpful in specific scenarios in patients with either known acute and chronic COVID-19 infections, as addressed in the 2022 NIA Clinical Guidelines for Medical Necessity Review: Advanced Imaging Guidelines available [here](#).

We strongly support both the [ACR position](#) on safe resumption of routine radiology care during the COVID-19 pandemic and the use of every measure to prevent transmission of COVID-19 in all outpatient facilities.

Additional general recommendations:

- Follow CDC infection prevention and control guidelines, available [here](#).
- Review the ACR statement on safe resumption of routine radiology care [here](#).
- Be a source of calm and well-informed guidance to our communities.

Outpatient imaging can continue to provide essential services during the pandemic through a steady and reasoned approach.