



Clinical Screening Tool for Identifying Persons Under Investigation for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Take steps to ensure rapid safe triage and isolation of patients with symptoms of suspected COVID-19 or other respiratory infection (e.g., fever, cough). If an examination room is not readily available ensure the patient is not allowed to wait among other patients seeking care.

Health care personnel should adhere to Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions

[Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings.](#)

March 28, 2020

PRIORITIES FOR TESTING PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED COVID-19 INFECTION

PRIORITY 1

Ensures optimal care options for all hospitalized patients, lessen the risk of healthcare-associated infections, and maintain the integrity of the U.S. healthcare system.

- Hospitalized patients
- Healthcare facility workers with symptoms

PRIORITY 2

Ensures those at highest risk of complication of infection are rapidly identified and appropriately triaged.

- Patients in long-term care facilities with symptoms
- Patients 65 years of age and older with symptoms
- Patients with underlying conditions with symptoms
- First responders with symptoms

PRIORITY 3

As resources allow, test individuals in the surrounding community of rapidly increasing hospital cases to decrease community spread, and ensure health of essential workers.

- Critical infrastructure workers with symptoms
- Individuals who do not meet any of the above categories with symptoms
- Individuals with mild symptoms in communities experiencing high numbers of COVID-19 hospitalizations

TESTING

Collection of diagnostic respiratory specimens (e.g., nasopharyngeal swab) should be performed in a normal examination room with the door closed.

- The health care provider is responsible for specimen collection, handling and shipping. Please follow [CDC guidance](#).
- Priority 1 and Priority 2 specimens should be processed within your health care facility, if available; a commercial laboratory (e.g., [LabCorp](#) and [Quest](#)), or the [Florida Bureau of Public Health Laboratory \(BPHL\)](#).
 - Before sending specimens to BPHL, contact your local county health department (CHD) [Epidemiology Contacts](#).
- Priority 3 specimens can be processed within your health care facility, if available; or a commercial laboratory (e.g., [LabCorp](#) and [Quest](#)).
- Health care providers may consult a local CHD for additional guidance as needed.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

Providers are encouraged to frequently monitor Florida Department of Health and CDC websites for updated guidance on COVID-19.

- www.flhealth.gov
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Please see the CDC's [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Healthcare Settings](#).