



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.](#)

May 11, 2020

PRIORITIES FOR COVID-19 TESTING

(Nucleic Acid or Antigen)

HIGH PRIORITY

- Hospitalized patients **with** symptoms
- Health care facility workers, workers in congregate living settings, and first responders **with** symptoms
- Residents in long-term care facilities or other congregate living settings, including correctional and detention facilities and shelters, **with** symptoms

PRIORITY

- Persons **with** symptoms of potential COVID-19 infection, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting or diarrhea, and/or sore throat
- Persons **without** symptoms who are prioritized by health departments or clinicians, for any reason, including but not limited to public health monitoring, sentinel surveillance, or screening of other asymptomatic individuals according to state and local plans

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](#).
- High priority 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 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](#).