This guidance applies to all facility types, including emergency departments, outpatient settings, inpatient settings, and intensive care.

Follow this guidance to
- determine if COVID-19 testing is indicated
- understand your options for laboratory testing
- safely care for your patient and collect specimens

**Determine if COVID-19 testing is clinically indicated.**

**Does the patient exhibit symptoms consistent with COVID-19?**

- cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, fever, new loss of taste or smell, nausea, diarrhea

**Understand your options for laboratory testing.**

- If a patient is not in a high-risk group, and a test result will not inform clinical care, please be mindful of ongoing shortages of specimen collection materials and reagents.

- If patient is in a high-risk group*, a consultation for testing can be performed through TDH. You may also consider testing through Quest, LabCorp, or hospital lab. These options do not require TDH approval.

**Safely care for your patient and collect specimens.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Target Personnel</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Type of PPE or procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Triage</td>
<td>Healthcare Personnel</td>
<td>Preliminary screening (not direct contact)</td>
<td>Maintain spatial distance of &gt;3 ft No specific PPE required for HCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patient with respiratory symptoms</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>Place surgical mask on patient Minimize time in waiting room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Room</td>
<td>Healthcare Personnel</td>
<td>Direct patient care</td>
<td>Gown, gloves, facemask, eye protection (goggles or face shield)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Specimen collection¹</td>
<td>Specimen collection¹</td>
<td>Gown, gloves, facemask, eye protection *Depending on PPE supply, consider use of N-95 respirator if there is concern about aerosol generation (no AIIR required)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Healthcare Personnel</td>
<td>Aerosol-generating procedures²</td>
<td>Gown, gloves, N-95 respirator, eye protection (goggles or face shield)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patient with respiratory symptoms</td>
<td>Routine clinical care</td>
<td>To the degree possible, patients with respiratory symptoms should wear a surgical mask during encounters with the healthcare team</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*High-Risk Groups

- Hospitalized patients
- Contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases
- Occupations with exposures to large numbers of contacts (e.g., teachers)
- Healthcare workers
- Nursing home residents
- Severely immunocompromised patients
- Pregnant women

Remember: Patients undergoing testing should **isolate** at home until results are received.

Confirmed cases should isolate at home for at least 7 days (and afebrile and feeling well for at least 3 days).

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1 Preferred specimen type is an NP swab and OP swab combined into a single collection vial.
2 Aerosol generating procedures include (but are not limited to) sputum induction, airway suctioning, endotracheal intubation, bronchoscopy, positive pressure ventilation (BiPAP, CPAP), nebulizer treatment, and tracheostomy care.

To request testing at TDH, please call **615-741-7247.**

April 28, 2020