COVID-19
Triage and Assessment Guidance

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

1 Determine if COVID-19 testing is clinically indicated.

Does the patient exhibit symptoms consistent with COVID-19?

fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, nausea, diarrhea, loss of smell or taste, muscle aches, general sense of being unwell

2 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.

3 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>Healthcare Personnel</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

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

April 16, 2020

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.

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).