

The Florida Department of Health (Department) is prioritizing testing of symptomatic individuals who had close contact<sup>1,2</sup> with a laboratory-confirmed<sup>3</sup> COVID-19 case, are part of an outbreak, or have unexplained respiratory illness. Please see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Health Alert Network 429 <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2020/han00429.asp> for additional guidance on prioritization of testing. The Department recommends other individuals be tested at a commercial laboratory (e.g., LabCorp and Quest). For all persons under investigation for COVID-19, take the following precautions:

- Ask the patient to wear a surgical mask.
- Evaluate the patient in a private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne isolation room, if available.
- Initiate contact and airborne precautions, including use of eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield) for all health care professionals and other staff entering the room.
- Visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control.html) for additional recommendations on infection control recommendations for patients under investigation for COVID-19 in health care settings.

**A.** Person had **close contact**<sup>1,2</sup> with a laboratory-confirmed<sup>3</sup> COVID-19 case and fever<sup>4</sup> or symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).

**B.** Person is part of an outbreak of suspected COVID-19.

**C.** Person hospitalized with **unexplained respiratory illness or person who died from unexplained respiratory illness.**

**D.** Person traveled to or from an **affected geographic area**<sup>5</sup> with widespread community transmission and has fever<sup>4</sup> or symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).

**E.** Person had community contact (e.g., attended the same gathering or stayed on the same cruise ship) with a laboratory-confirmed<sup>3</sup> COVID-19 case and fever<sup>4</sup> or symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).

**F.** Person is age  $\geq 65$  years, has chronic medical conditions, or is in an immunocompromised state and has fever<sup>4</sup> or symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).

**This patient meets the criteria for testing at the Florida Department of Health Bureau of Public Health Laboratories.**

The Florida Department of Health asks that you **immediately** notify both infection control personnel at your health care facility and your county health department (CHD) ([FloridaHealth.gov/CHDEpiContact](http://FloridaHealth.gov/CHDEpiContact)).

**Consider testing at a commercial laboratory.** If commercial testing is not available, contact your CHD for patients that meet CDC priority criteria.

<sup>1</sup>Close contact is defined as a) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period; close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case– or –b) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on) If such contact occurs while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g., gowns, gloves, NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator, eye protection), criteria for PUI consideration are met. Data to inform the definition of close contact are limited. Considerations when assessing close contact include the duration of exposure (e.g., longer exposure time likely increases exposure risk) and the clinical symptoms of the person with COVID-19 (e.g., coughing likely increases exposure risk as does exposure to a severely ill patient). Special consideration should be given to healthcare personnel exposed in healthcare settings.

<sup>2</sup>For healthcare personnel, testing may be considered if there has been exposure to a person with suspected COVID-19 without laboratory confirmation. Because of their often extensive and close contact with vulnerable patients in healthcare settings, even mild signs and symptoms (e.g., sore throat) of COVID-19 should be evaluated among potentially exposed healthcare personnel.

<sup>3</sup>Documentation of laboratory-confirmation of COVID-19 may not be possible for travelers or persons caring for patients in other countries.

<sup>4</sup>Fever may be subjective or confirmed.

<sup>5</sup>Affected areas are defined as geographic regions where sustained community transmission has been identified. For a list of relevant affected areas, see Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>)