SCREENING CRITERIA

If your patient is exhibiting symptoms of acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., fever, cough, and shortness of breath) and meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Persons who have had a close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case
2. Persons hospitalized with acute lower respiratory illness of unknown origin
3. History of travel to or from an affected geographic area with widespread community transmission
4. History of international travel or a cruise
5. ≥65 with chronic health conditions
6. Immunocompromised persons

EXPANDED CRITERIA

If your patient does not meet the above criteria, testing may occur based on clinician’s judgement.

1. The health care provider is responsible for specimen collection, handling and shipping. Please follow CDC guidance and use proper PPE.
2. Collected specimens should be processed within your health care facility or a commercial laboratory (e.g., LabCorp and Quest); or a Florida Bureau of Public Health Laboratory (BPHL).
3. Before sending specimens to BPHL, contact your local county health department CHD Epidemiology Contacts.
4. Health care providers may consult local county health departments for additional guidance as needed.

TESTING

If individual meets criteria for testing, collection of diagnostic respiratory specimens (e.g., nasopharyngeal swab) should be performed in a normal examination room with the door closed.

1. The health care provider is responsible for specimen collection, handling and shipping. Please follow CDC guidance.
2. Collected specimens should be processed within your health care facility, if available; a commercial laboratory (e.g., LabCorp and Quest); or a Florida Bureau of Public Health Laboratory (BPHL).

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

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

- www.flhealth.gov

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.