



Indiana State Department of Health

Expanded testing Capability Guidelines

As ISDH expands its testing capabilities, we want to encourage providers to use their discretion in deciding which patients to test. However, testing swabs and viral transport medium remain in short supply. ISDH will continue to focus on testing our highest-risk patients to provide a fast turnaround time.

ISDH Testing Guidelines: March 18, 2020

- 1) **Patient requiring hospitalization with fever and lower respiratory symptoms, constituting:**
 - a. Admission to the hospital due to complications of their acute respiratory illness.
- 2) **Healthcare workers (inpatient, outpatient, nursing home, and other long-term service facilities) and EMS staff who provide direct patient care to at risk patients:**
 - a. Symptomatic with fever and lower respiratory symptoms and in their role has potential or unknown exposure to at risk patients.
- 3) **Long-term care facility residents or prison/jail residents and staff (who have direct contact with patients or inmates):**
 - a. Symptomatic with fever and respiratory illness and otherwise no known COVID-19 contact.
- 4) **Persons experiencing homelessness:**
 - a. Symptomatic with fever and respiratory illness and otherwise no known COVID-19 contact.

Provider Discretion to Test Through Local and Private Labs:

- 1) Providers should use their discretion to consider testing appropriate patients, keeping in mind that swabs and viral transport medium are a scarce resource at this time. Some patients that may be considered for local and private lab testing include symptomatic older adults (age \geq 65 years) and individuals with chronic medical conditions and/or an immunocompromised state that may put them at higher risk for poor outcomes (e.g.,

diabetes, heart disease, receiving immunosuppressive medications, chronic lung disease, chronic kidney disease). Additionally, any patient the provider feels warrants testing.

- a. These patients need to be told of the risks of developing severe illness ~8 days after onset of symptoms.
- b. They need to be made aware of what symptoms to watch out for, when to seek additional care, and to call ahead.
- c. Positive tests are immediately reportable to ISDH
- d. Recommendations to discharge patients with instructions on home isolation
- e. Communication to healthcare partners that obtaining NP and OP swabs is considered a high-risk procedure and is only recommended to be done wearing full PPE
- f. Encourage telehealth and nurse lines to have patients stay home if they have mild illness

Additional Recommendations:

Symptomatic patients at risk for COVID-19, having direct contact with a COVID-19 patient or travel from a geographic area with community spread, should be advised to home isolate for 14 days after the onset of symptoms.