



Clinical Screening Tool for Identifying Persons Under Investigation for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Take steps to ensure rapid safe triage and isolation of patients with symptoms of suspected COVID-19 or other respiratory infection (e.g., fever, cough). If an examination room is not readily available ensure the patient is not allowed to wait among other patients seeking care.

Health care personnel should adhere to Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions

[Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings.](#)

March 19, 2020

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



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 \(BPHL\)](#).
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.



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](#)).
3. Follow [CDC guidance](#) for specimen collection, handling and shipping.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

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

- www.flhealth.gov
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

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.](#)