



## COVID-19 Testing Criteria for Ambulatory Care Sites and Public Health

The Unified Health Command testing guidance for COVID-19 is as follows:

- **Testing for COVID-19 is recommended for the following patients that have COVID-19 symptoms (new cough, new shortness of breath, subjective or measured fever  $\geq$  100.0, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea).** To ensure that tests for the highest risk patients are processed first, please mark the following categories below as *high risk* when sending in your testing order:
  - Healthcare workers
  - Patients in other public safety occupations (e.g., law enforcement, fire fighter, EMS)
  - Patients involved in an illness cluster in a facility or institution (e.g., healthcare, corrections, homeless/shelters, long-term care facilities (LTCF), assisted living or group homes)
  - Close contacts of a confirmed case
  - Older adults (age  $\geq$  60 years)
  - Patients with underlying medical conditions:
    - immunocompromised individuals
    - cancer
    - solid organ transplant
    - other immunosuppressive drugs
    - chronic lung, kidney, heart disease
    - hemodialysis
    - diabetes
    - other chronic medical conditions
- Please note: Turnaround time for test results may vary depending on prioritization of testing and laboratory capacity. Instruct the patient utilizing the guidance developed by the Unified Health Command [“Detailed Instructions Waiting for Your COVID-19 Test Results.”](#)
- Persons **without symptoms** who are prioritized by health departments or clinicians, including but not limited to: public health monitoring, sentinel surveillance, or screening of other asymptomatic individuals in certain circumstances as necessary.

- Clinically diagnosed patients who do not get tested for COVID-19 need to be reported to RiverStone Health, Yellowstone County's public health department. Instruct clinically diagnosed patients to follow the same guidance as patients with a lab confirmed COVID-19 case. Report clinically diagnosed patients to RiverStone Health by calling **406.247.3200** and ask for public health.

The most current specimen collection guidance can be found at the following link:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>

**Note: A negative test result does not rule out an infection.**

