

Mission:
To protect, promote & improve the health
of all people in Florida through integrated
state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

Clinical Screening Tool for Identifying Persons Under Investigation for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

March 15, 2020

The Department of Health (Department) has updated the clinical screening tool health care providers use in the identification of persons under investigation or suspected for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The clinical screening tool is intended to assist health care practitioners in understanding their role in identifying individuals, specimen collection, shipping of specimens, and notification of local county health departments, as appropriate.

The State Surgeon General, Dr. Scott Rivkees, is currently hosting a weekly health care provider telephone conference call designed to provide updates from the Department, briefing from the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, updates from other state agencies and address questions from partners. If you are interested in joining this weekly call, please see the call-in information below:

Date: Every Wednesday
Time: 2:00pm-2:30pm
Call-In Number: 888-585-9008
Conference Room ID: 872-128-152

Additional Resources

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued their CDC Health Alert Network (HAN) Update which highlights guidance and recommendations for evaluating and identifying patients who should be tested for COVID-19 that was shared on March 4, 2020, on the CDC COVID-19 website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>. It supersedes the guidance and recommendations provided in CDC's HAN 428 distributed on February 28, 2020.

Health care practitioners should immediately implement recommended infection prevention and control practices (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>) if a patient is suspected of having COVID-19.

The American Medical Association has published a Physician's Guide to COVID-19 that includes how to prepare your practice, protect yourself from infection and diagnosing patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 (<https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/physicians-guide-covid-19>).

Please [click here](#) for a print friendly version of the Clinician Screening Tool for Identifying Persons Under Investigation for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Clinical Screening Tool for Identifying Persons Under Investigation for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Symptomatic individuals should be asked to wear a surgical mask upon arrival. Initiate contact and airborne precautions, using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Version 4.2 | March 15, 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Persons who have had a close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case2. Persons hospitalized with acute lower respiratory illness of unknown origin3. History of travel to or from an affected geographic area with widespread community transmission4. History of international travel or a cruise5. >65 with chronic health conditions6. Immunocompromised persons	TESTING If individual meets criteria for testing, wear appropriate PPE and initiate contact and airborne precautions. <ol style="list-style-type: none">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, notify 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. <ol style="list-style-type: none">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.	FOR ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE Providers are encouraged to frequently monitor Florida Department of Health and CDC websites for updated guidance on COVID-19. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 .