

Laboratory Testing Algorithm

for Patients with Suspect 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Patient must meet **clinical features** criteria AND **epidemiological risk** criteria for testing authorization.

Clinical Features	&	Epidemiologic Risk
Fever ¹ or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)	AND	Any person, including health care workers ² , who has had close contact ³ with a laboratory-confirmed ⁴ COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever ¹ and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization	AND	A history of travel from affected geographic areas ⁵ within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever ¹ with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization ⁴ and without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza) ⁶	AND	No source of exposure has been identified

If patient meets **CLINICAL AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RISK** criteria as a person under investigation (PUI), place patient in contact and airborne isolation and call ISDH immediately for testing authorization at 317-233-7125, M-F 8:15 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. After hours, call 317-233-1325.

1 Fever may be subjective or confirmed.

2 For healthcare personnel, testing may be considered if there has been exposure to a person with suspected COVID-19 without laboratory confirmation.

3 Close contact is defined as: a) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time; close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case OR b) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on). If such contact occurs while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment or PPE (e.g., gowns, gloves, NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator, eye protection), criteria for PUI consideration are met.

4 Documentation of laboratory-confirmation of COVID-19 may not be possible for travelers or persons caring for patients in other countries.

5 Affected areas are defined as geographic areas where sustained community transmission has been identified. Relevant affected areas will be defined as a country with sustained or widespread community-level transmission ([CDC Level 2 or 3 Travel Health Notice](#)).

6 Category includes single or clusters of patients with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) of unknown etiology in which COVID-19 is being considered.