



Guidance Date 5/01/20

GUIDANCE ON COVID TESTING

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on COVID testing across The Queen’s Health Systems. For pre-procedural screening of asymptomatic patients, refer to the separate guidance document (Pre-procedural screening of asymptomatic patients for COVID). Testing should be considered for the following individuals:

Clinical Features		Epidemiologic Risk
Fever (temp >100.3F) AND signs/symptoms of influenza-like illness (e.g., cough, SOB, or hypoxia beyond patient’s baseline)	&	None Required
Fever (temp >100.3F) OR signs/symptoms of influenza-like illness (e.g., cough, SOB, or hypoxia beyond patient’s baseline)	&	Any of the following:
		Exposure: Close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days*
		Travel: Travel outside the state in the last 14 days prior to symptom onset
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupation that places person in close contact with travelers (flight attendant, hotel worker, cruise ship attendant, bus/taxi driver) • Health care worker, firefighter, police
		Comorbidities: age>65, poorly controlled diabetes, serious heart disease, chronic lung disease, chronic kidney disease, immunocompromised**
		Congregate living situations***
		Lack of a more likely diagnosis for patient’s symptoms

*Close contact is defined (per CDC) as “within 6 feet for a prolonged period of time (caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a waiting room)” or “direct contact with secretions (i.e., being coughed on).” Casual interaction (defined per CDC as “walking by the person or briefly being in the same room”) does not count as close contact.

**Immunocompromised includes: medical treatment with immunosuppressive drugs, bone marrow or solid organ transplant recipients, inherited immunodeficiency, poorly-controlled HIV infection

***Congregate living situation: home >10 people, skilled nursing facility, senior-assisted living facility, homeless shelter

Hospitalized patients with COVID-19 have the following diagnostic features: (Reference CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-guidance-management-patients.html>)

- Leukopenia (9-25%)
- Leukocytosis (24-30%)
- Lymphopenia (63%)
- Elevated AST/ALT (37%)
- Normal procalcitonin
- Bilateral involvement of the lungs including multiple areas of consolidation and ground-glass findings

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are: (Data from the United States from February 12-April 2, 2020)

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6914e4.htm?s_cid=mm6914e4_w

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

1. Cough, Fever, or SOB (93%)
2. Cough (80%)
3. Fever (71%)
4. Myalgia (61%)
5. Headache (58%)
6. Shortness of breath (43%)
7. Chills
8. Repeated shaking with chills (rigors)
9. Sore throat
10. New loss of taste or smell