



COVID-19 Testing for Health Care Workers Guidance

This document provides guidance and recommendations about testing health care workers for COVID-19.

Diagnostic Testing of Health Care Workers for COVID-19

The health and well-being of health care workers is important, particularly during the COVID-19 crisis. Priorities are being placed on monitoring and assessing health care personnel conditions daily to ensure staff are safe and protected. DC hospitals have protocols in place to protect their health care workers and patients. All health care workers with symptoms are tested and follow hospital protocols around quarantine, isolation and return to work. Hospitals consider guidance from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) regarding low-, medium- and high-risk exposure scenarios and take appropriate actions for each.

Priorities for Testing

PRIORITY 1: To ensure optimal care conditions for all hospitalized patients, lessen the risk of hospital acquired infections, and maintain the integrity of the health care system

- Health care workers with symptoms

PRIORITY 2: Ensure that those who at a high risk of infection are identified and tested

- First responders with symptoms

PRIORITY 3: As resources allow, test other essential to decrease community spread, and ensure health of essential workers

- Critical infrastructure workers with symptoms
- Healthcare workers, first responders, and other essentials with suspected exposure to COVID-19

Source: CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>