



COVID-19 Interim Testing Guidance for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)

April 14, 2020

Purpose: This interim guidance supports COVID-19 testing for high-risk Illinoisans with symptoms. As COVID-19 testing becomes more available, IDPH will continue to expand testing to priority groups. Together, the expansion of testing will help reduce the transmission of the disease and improve health outcomes.

Higher-Risk Groups with SYMPTOMS of COVID-19: Expansion to one or more groups at a time may be possible. For all groups, testing would only be conducted for individuals who have COVID-19-consistent symptoms.

High-Risk Groups	Opportunities for Action / Comments
<p>Group 1 Individuals with COVID-19-Consistent Symptoms, <u>in Temporary Shelter</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals would be tested who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and are in temporary shelter/housing served by FQHC partners (e.g., FQHCs working with homeless shelter(s) to diagnose individuals who tested positive and are staying at alternate housing sites)
<p>Group 2 Individuals with COVID-19-Consistent Symptoms, and <u>Known Exposure to Individuals with Positive Tests or Consistent Symptoms who will be treated differently based on COVID-19 test results</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals would be tested who are current or new patients at the participating FQHCs, have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, and have known exposure to individuals who have tested COVID-19-positive or have COVID-19-consistent symptoms FQHCs could consider outreach to current patients/families, to alert them to availability of testing for individuals with COVID-19-consistent symptoms and known contacts
<p>Group 3 Individuals with COVID-19-Consistent Symptoms and <u>Older Age (eg ≥60) or Known Chronic Health Conditions that Put Them at Risk for Complications of COVID-19, But No Known Exposure</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals would be tested who are current or new patients at the participating FQHCs, have chronic cardiovascular disease, lung disease, diabetes or immunosuppressive conditions, and have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 FQHCs could consider outreach to current patients/families with known chronic conditions, to alert them to availability of testing for individuals with COVID-19-consistent symptoms
<p>Group 4 Front Line Workers Contributing to Maintenance of Essential Community Services (e.g. grocery store clerks, licensed childcare facility workers) and Consistent Symptoms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals would be tested who are current or new patients at the participating FQHCs, and have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 Health care workers and first responders are already prioritized for testing

Please also see [IDPH Clinical and Public Health Guidance for Managing COVID-19](#)