

Updated Interim Guidance: Protocol for COVID-19 Testing Applicable to All Health Care Providers and Local Health Departments

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Diagnostic and/or serologic testing for COVID-19 shall be authorized by a health care provider when:

- An individual is symptomatic or has a history of symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough, and/or trouble breathing), particularly if the individual is 70 years of age or older, the individual has a compromised immune system, or the individual has an underlying health condition; or
- An individual is less than 21 years of age who has symptoms consistent with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), which is also known as Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome; or
- An individual requires a test for medical care, including being tested prior to an elective surgery or procedure, or individuals who are pregnant and their designated support person; or
- An individual has had close (i.e. within six feet) or proximate contact with a person known to be positive with COVID-19; or
- An individual is subject to a precautionary or mandatory quarantine; or
- An individual is employed as a health care worker, first responder, employee of a nursing home, long-term care facility, or other congregate care facility, or other essential employee who directly interacts with the public while working; or
- An individual is employed by an essential business (e.g. food production, medical supply manufacturing) or any business that has been designated to “reopen” in certain regions of the state (e.g. construction, curbside/in-store pickup retail, wholesale trade); or
- An individual presents with a case where the facts and circumstances – as determined by the treating clinician in consultation with state or local department of health officials – warrant testing, or other criteria set forth by NYS DOH (e.g. place of residence, occupation).

Based on individual clinical factors, health care providers should use clinical judgement to determine the appropriate COVID-19 test(s) (i.e. diagnostic or serologic) that should be obtained for an individual.

1. Individuals who are employed as essential employees who directly interact with the public while working, including but not limited to: • Animal Care Workers (e.g. Veterinarians)

- Automotive Service and Repair Workers
- Bank Tellers and Workers
- Building Code Enforcement Officers
- Child Care Workers
- Client-Facing Case Managers and Coordinators
- Court Personnel
- Delivery Workers
- Essential Construction Workers at Occupied Residences or Buildings
- Faith-Based Leaders (e.g. Chaplains, Clergy Members)
- Field Investigators/Regulators for Health and Safety

- Food Service Workers
- Funeral Home, Cemetery, and Crematory Workers
- Hotel/Motel Workers
- Human Services Providers
- Laundry and Dry Cleaning Workers
- Mail and Shipping Workers
- Maintenance and Janitorial/Cleaning Workers
- Retail Workers at Essential Businesses (e.g. Grocery Stores, Pharmacies, Convenience Stores, Gas Stations, Hardware Stores)
- Security Guards and Personnel
- Shelter Workers and Homelessness Support Staff
- Social Workers
- Teachers/Professors/Educators
- Transit Workers (e.g. Airports, Railways, Buses, and For-Hire Vehicles)
- Trash and Recycling Workers
- Utility Workers

2. Individuals who are employed by an essential business (e.g. food production, medical supply manufacturing) or any business that has been designated to “reopen” in certain regions of the state (e.g. construction, curbside/in-store pickup retail, wholesale trade).

3. Individuals who present with a case where the facts and circumstances – as determined by the treating clinician in consultation with state or local department of health officials – warrant testing, or other criteria set forth by NYS DOH (e.g. place of residence, occupation).