

# COVID-19 TESTING PRIORITIES AND TYPES OF TESTS

## HIGH PRIORITY

- Hospitalized patients
- Healthcare facility workers, workers in congregate living settings, and first responders with symptoms
- Residents in long-term care facilities or other congregate living settings, including prisons and shelters, with symptoms
- Persons identified through public health cluster and selected contact investigations

## PRIORITY

- Persons with symptoms of potential COVID-19 infection, including: fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting or diarrhea and/or sore throat
- Persons without symptoms who are prioritized by health departments or clinicians, for any reason, including but not limited to: public health monitoring, sentinel surveillance, or screening of other asymptomatic individuals according to state and local plans.

- Detects the presence of viral genetic material
- Tells you if an individual is actively infected with COVID-19
- Collected via nasal swab or saliva sample
- Requires chemical reagent and testing machine
- Can take from a few hours to a few days to get results

## MOLECULAR TESTING

- Detects the presence of antibodies
- The presence of antibodies does not necessarily mean you are immune. Active investigation continues.
- May tell you if an individual has been exposed to the virus
- Collected via blood sample
- Antibodies are not present until one to two weeks after infection
- Upwards of 90 tests on the market, but only a small few have been given "emergency authorization" by the FDA

## SEROLOGICAL TESTING

## WHAT SHOULD PATIENTS BEING TESTED FOR COVID-19 DO?

Isolate at home until results are obtained. Avoid contact with anyone outside the home and those inside the home to the extent that is possible.

## WHAT SHOULD PATIENTS WHO ARE CONFIRMED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 DO?

Isolate at home until *all three criteria* are met:

- Overall improvement in symptoms,
- It's been three days since last fever, and
- It's been seven days since last symptoms started.

If a patient tests positive for COVID-19 with no symptoms, they should still isolate at home for seven days since the date of the first positive test. DHEC does not routinely recommend testing asymptomatic patients at this time.

## WHAT IS CONSIDERED CLOSE CONTACT WITH COVID-19 CONFIRMED PERSON?

Close contact is considered within six feet for a prolonged period of time, up to 48 hours before symptoms appeared.

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAVE MET THE CONDITIONS OF CLOSE CONTACT?

- Self-quarantine at home for 14 days after last contact.
- Avoid anyone outside the home and anyone inside the home as much as possible.
- If your close contact is with someone in the household, continue self-quarantine for seven days after the infected person's isolation period is complete.
- Contact a healthcare provider if you develop symptoms.