

# MCHS COVID-19 Testing Algorithm (Updated 3/27/20)

**Instruction:** Use this algorithm to determine if patients need testing and which tests should be ordered. Order testing when disposition finalized.

- If you are concerned that a patient may meet the definition for COVID-19 infection, place patient on COVID-19 precautions.
- COVID 19 testing needs to be reserved for those patients requiring an UC or ED visit and judged to be acutely ill, with pending or realized hospitalization or symptomatic employee. Rationale: This process will markedly preserve PPE, and conserve test swabs and transport media.
- Order COV19 and ABRNAT if influenza/RSV testing is being considered (the same swab is used for both tests).
- Ordering of ABRNAT (influenza/RSV) alone is strongly discouraged to conserve test swabs and media. Providers may choose to treat cases suspicious of influenza empirically and self-quarantine.

Presentation status		Medical Care/Status		Testing Needed	Tier
Critically Ill with unexplained viral pneumonia or respiratory failure	<b>AND</b>	Receiving ICU-level care	→	Test patient Order: 'COV19' (add 'ABRNAT' if influenza/RSV is being considered)	<b>Tier 1</b>
Unexplained fever <b>OR</b> signs/symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g. cough, shortness of breath)	<b>AND</b>	Residents of long-term care facilities or other high consequence congregate settings (e.g. prisons or jails)	→	Test patient Order: 'COV19' (add 'ABRNAT' if influenza/RSV is being considered)	
		Post-mortem testing for people who died of unknown causes (if COVID-19 testing would influence infection control interventions or inform a public health response).	→	Test patient Order: 'COV19'	
<b>Tier 2</b>					
Unexplained fever <b>AND</b> sign/symptoms of acute respiratory illness.	<b>AND</b>	Hospitalized (non-ICU) patients	→	Test patient Order: 'COV19' (add 'ABRNAT' if influenza/RSV is being considered)	<b>Tier 2</b>
Unexplained fever <b>AND</b> sign/symptoms of acute respiratory illness.	<b>AND</b>	Health care workers or first responders (regardless of hospitalization)	→	Test patient Order: 'COV19'	
Unexplained fever <b>AND</b> sign/symptoms of acute respiratory illness.	<b>AND</b>	Essential staff in high consequence congregate settings (e.g. correctional officers)	→	Test patient Order: 'COV19'	
Patient not meeting Tier 1 or Tier 2 criteria DO NOT need to be tested for COVID-19. Discharge with instruction for home isolation and follow up if symptoms worsen.					

Adopted from: Johns Hopkins. COVID-19 Testing Algorithm for the Pediatric Emergency Department [paper copy].

Reference:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Evaluating and testing persons for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>. Access March 22, 2020.
2. Wisconsin 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Patient Information Form. <https://spintranet.mfldclin.org/sites/mc/iqips/infectionprevention/COVID-19/Shared%20Documents/Novel%20Coronavirus%20Patient%20Information%20Form.pdf>. Accessed March 26, 2020.

