The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) is updating information regarding which patients should be tested for COVID-19. Clinicians should continue to use their judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested.

Health care providers should consider testing the following patients:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Features</th>
<th>&amp; Epidemiologic Risk and Transmission Risk</th>
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| Fever OR 2 of the following signs/symptoms of respiratory illness with new or worsening onset:  
  - Cough  
  - shortness of breath  
  - sore throat  
  - chills  
  - myalgia  
  - fatigue | AND No source of exposure has been identified |

**NDDoH recommends that asymptomatic patients NOT be tested; the State Lab will NOT run tests performed on asymptomatic patients at this time.**

If testing supplies are limited at the local level or need to be prioritized at the state level, the following patients should be prioritized for COVID-19 testing:
- Patients hospitalized with respiratory illness
- Those living in congregate settings (i.e., long term care, group homes)
- Health care workers
- Testing for public health investigations and contact tracing (symptomatic contacts to known COVID-19 cases)

Health care providers should continue to ask their patients about travel history, both internationally (including cruises) and domestic, as travel continues to be an increased risk for COVID-19 infection. **Asymptomatic patients should not be tested for COVID-19.** Providers must complete a [COVID-19 Evaluation and Test Report Form](#) and a [Test Request Form](#). Both forms must be included with the specimen. If the [COVID-19 Evaluation and Test Report Form](#) is
not included with the specimen, that specimen may move to the bottom of the queue if specimens need to be prioritized.

**Health care providers should not refer patients to the NDDoH for medical consultation or screening to determine the need for testing. Health care providers should not diagnose a patient with COVID-19 without testing and/or reporting to the NDDoH.**

For questions related to COVID-19, healthcare providers can call the new NDDoH Division of Disease Control at COVID-19 hotline at 888-391-3430 Sunday through Saturday, 24/7.

All patients being tested for COVID-19 will need to be isolated (at home or in a hospital) while awaiting test results. Patients with confirmed COVID-19 should remain under isolation precautions until the risk of secondary transmission to others is thought to be low. Below is information from the CDC regarding discontinuation of isolation:

- **Healthy individuals**
- **Immunocompromised individuals**
- **Health care workers**
- **Healthcare Settings**

If a patient is unable to be tested for COVID-19, then the criteria for discontinuation from isolation for patients with confirmed COVID-19 should be followed.

If COVID-19 testing is negative, individuals should stay home until well and fever free (without fever-reducing medications) for 24 hours. Please provide your patients with the NDDoH fact sheet for people being tested for COVID-19.

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**Categories of Health Alert Network messages:**
- **Health Alert** Requires immediate action or attention; highest level of importance
- **Health Advisory** May not require immediate action; provides important information for a specific incident or situation
- **Health Update** Unlikely to require immediate action; provides updated information regarding an incident or situation
- **HAN Info Service** Does not require immediate action; provides general public health information