

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH COVID-19 TESTING CRITERIA

Clinical Features		&	Epidemiologic Risk and Transmission Risk
1	Fever OR signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) <u>without</u> an alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)	AND	History of travel from a geographic area* (international or domestic) with confirmed COVID-19 cases or close contact with a COVID-19 patient within the past 14 days
2	Fever WITH signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring <u>hospitalization</u>	AND	No source of exposure has been identified
3	Signs/symptoms of respiratory illness (may be mild with symptoms such as fever/chills, sore throat, cough, headache and runny nose) <u>without</u> an alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)	AND	History of exposure as described in number 1 AND works in a facility that serves a highly-susceptible population (e.g., Long-term care, hospital, basic care)
4	Fever WITH signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) <u>without</u> an alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza, RSV)	AND	Resides in an institutional setting (e.g., Long-term care facility, basic care facility, group home)
Asymptomatic patients will NOT be tested for COVID-19 at the NDDoH.			

Providers should consider patient symptoms, severity of illness (e.g., ICU patient), and alternative diagnoses (e.g., influenza, allergies) along with epidemiologic risk and potential exposure to highly-susceptible populations and use their clinical judgment on who should be tested for COVID-19 infection. All patients being tested for COVID-19 will need to be isolated (at home or in a hospital) while awaiting test results. Appropriate [personal protective equipment \(PPE\) and isolation precautions](#) should be adhered to during specimen collection.

* See the CDC website for areas with [sustained community COVID-19 transmission](#):

- International - www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html
- Domestic - www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html - For states with demonstrated community spread, click on the + sign below the States Reporting Cases Map at the link list.
- Cruise ships are unique environments where close person-to-person contact occurs. Providers may consider exposure on a cruise ship as an epidemiologic geographical risk, especially if there has been documented associated COVID-19 cases.

Testing for Influenza

Providers may request influenza testing at the NDDoH Division of Microbiology (DM) along with SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). The same NP swab in viral transport media (VTM) can be used at the DM for both influenza and SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR. Remaining rapid influenza test aliquot cannot be used for SARS-CoV-2 testing so if a rapid influenza test is performed, another NP swab in VTM will need to be collected.