



COVID-19 Testing Guidance

Explaining the Tiers for Testing Priority

Note: Tier Three and Tier Four testing **will not be performed at the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene or Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory*

Tier One

Ensures optimal care options for all hospitalized patients, lessens the risk of healthcare-associated infections, and maintains the integrity of the U.S. healthcare system

- Patients who are critically ill and receiving ICU level care with unexplained viral pneumonia or respiratory failure

OR

- Patients who are residents of long-term care facilities or other high consequence congregate settings (e.g. prisons or jails), with unexplained fever OR signs/symptoms of acute respiratory illness

OR

- 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.

Tier Two

Ensures those at highest risk of complication of infection are rapidly identified and appropriately triaged

- Hospitalized (non-ICU) patients with unexplained fever AND signs/symptoms of acute respiratory illness

OR

- Health care workers (including long-term care) & first responders with unexplained fever AND signs/symptoms of acute respiratory illness, REGARDLESS OF HOSPITALIZATION

OR

- Essential staff in high consequence congregate settings (e.g. correctional officers) with unexplained fever AND signs/symptoms of acute respiratory illness, REGARDLESS OF HOSPITALIZATION

Tier Three*

As resources allow, test individuals in the surrounding community of rapidly increasing hospital cases to decrease community spread, and ensure health of essential workers

- Patient is in an outpatient setting and meets criteria for influenza testing. This includes individuals with co-morbid conditions including diabetes, COPD, congestive heart failure, age >50, immunocompromised, etc.

OR

- Health care workers with acute respiratory symptoms **without fever**

Tier Four*

- Other patients, as directed by public health or infection control authorities

DO NOT TEST

- Patients without symptoms
- Patients with mild respiratory symptoms only who are not health care workers