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**

- 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**

- 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***

- 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, immocompromised, 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

https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/publichealth/coronavirus

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