

# COVID-19 Testing Guidance Summary

(policy abstract, last updated 03/24/2020)

## CRITICAL UPDATES FOR: All Samaritan Health Services Clinicians

**ALERT:** Nationwide shortages of testing supplies.

**RESPONSE TO ALERT:** Testing must be prioritized for high risk symptomatic patients and those at high risk for transmission to others. Prioritize accordingly until supplies and capacity increases:

- Hospitalized patients with lower respiratory tract infections
- Healthcare workers
- Patients in public safety occupations – first responders (police, fire, EMS)
- Patients residing in a facility/institution (SNF, shelters, inmates, dorms, etc.)

### Testing Guidance – Inpatient or ED with Need for Admission

- Expected processing time for hospitalized patients, 24 to 72 hours.
- **ALL criteria for automatic** approval must be met:
  - Require hospitalization,
  - Evidence of lower respiratory tract infection, **AND**
  - Negative influenza test
- Four-step process to order automatically approved tests:
  1. Complete the **Oregon Morbidity Report** and answer clinical questions at: [healthoregon.org/howtoreport](http://healthoregon.org/howtoreport)
  2. Enter **Epic Order**: SARS CoV-2 (COVID-19) Coronavirus Qualitative PCR
    - Select “**State Lab**”
  3. **Collect and send** specimen
  4. **Notify Infection Prevention** if not already done

**NOTICE:** If your patient did not meet automatic testing criteria, but you have a strong clinical suspicion for COVID-19 in a hospitalized patient, contact the local county health department for testing approval.

### Testing Guidance – Outpatient or ED without Need for Admission

- Expected processing time is 3 to 5 days.
- Testing **MUST** be reserved for those who are high risk and symptomatic or at highest risk of transmission to others as outlined above.
- Outpatient triage for testing is **safest** through a phone visit or E-visit
- If patient is already in the office and being evaluated, please collect specimen
- The process for ordering an outpatient lab is:
  - Enter **Epic Order**: SARS CoV-2 (COVID-19) Coronavirus Qualitative PCR
    - Select “**Commercial Lab**”
  - **If in the office collect and send** specimen to nearest hospital lab
  - If lab is ordered following a phone or e-visit assessment, patient will be contacted with further instructions and to schedule an appointment at one of the three testing centers by Service Opportunity Care Coordinators.

**DISCLAIMER:**

- To access detailed policy, go to the Emerging Pathogens webpage on the SHS Insider.
- If policy abstract is more than 2 days past the latest updated date, refer to the Emerging Pathogens webpage on the SHS Insider to ensure no changes have been made.