



## COVID-19 Interim Testing Guidance for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)

April 14, 2020

**Purpose:** This interim guidance supports COVID-19 testing for high-risk Illinoisans with symptoms. As COVID-19 testing becomes more available, IDPH will continue to expand testing to priority groups. Together, the expansion of testing will help reduce the transmission of the disease and improve health outcomes.

**Higher-Risk Groups with SYMPTOMS of COVID-19:** Expansion to one or more groups at a time may be possible. For all groups, testing would only be conducted for individuals who have COVID-19-consistent symptoms.

| High-Risk Groups  | Opportunities for Action / Comments  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Group 1</b><br/>Individuals with COVID-19-Consistent Symptoms, <u>in Temporary Shelter</u></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals would be tested who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and are in temporary shelter/housing served by FQHC partners (e.g., FQHCs working with homeless shelter(s) to diagnose individuals who tested positive and are staying at alternate housing sites)</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Group 2</b><br/>Individuals with COVID-19-Consistent Symptoms, and <u>Known Exposure to Individuals with Positive Tests or Consistent Symptoms who will be treated differently based on COVID-19 test results</u></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals would be tested who are current or new patients at the participating FQHCs, have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, and have known exposure to individuals who have tested COVID-19-positive or have COVID-19-consistent symptoms</li> <li>FQHCs could consider outreach to current patients/families, to alert them to availability of testing for individuals with COVID-19-consistent symptoms and known contacts</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Group 3</b><br/>Individuals with COVID-19-Consistent Symptoms and <u>Older Age (eg ≥60) or Known Chronic Health Conditions that Put Them at Risk for Complications of COVID-19, But No Known Exposure</u></p>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals would be tested who are current or new patients at the participating FQHCs, have chronic cardiovascular disease, lung disease, diabetes or immunosuppressive conditions, and have symptoms consistent with COVID-19</li> <li>FQHCs could consider outreach to current patients/families with known chronic conditions, to alert them to availability of testing for individuals with COVID-19-consistent symptoms</li> </ul>    |
| <p><b>Group 4</b><br/>Front Line Workers Contributing to Maintenance of Essential Community Services (e.g. grocery store clerks, licensed childcare facility workers) and Consistent Symptoms</p>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals would be tested who are current or new patients at the participating FQHCs, and have symptoms consistent with COVID-19</li> <li>Health care workers and first responders are already prioritized for testing</li> </ul>   |

Please also see [IDPH Clinical and Public Health Guidance for Managing COVID-19](#)