

Munson Healthcare (MHC) currently has a limited allocation of COVID-19 testing supplies, allowing us to test approximately 100-150 patients per day. Based on current volumes of patients meeting the MDHHS Priority 1 and 2 criteria, MHC does not have excess capacity to test individuals in Priority 3 and 4. In addition, we are quickly running out of collection supplies and, due to the global demand for these, are not expecting future shipments anytime soon. The following FAQs explain MHC's testing priorities and provides guidelines and resources for local employers.

### Which of my employees should be tested?

- The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is expanding COVID-19 testing prioritization criteria to include asymptomatic health care workers and first responders as part of the Priority 3 group for testing.
- MDHHS has added a Priority 4 group that includes critical infrastructure workers (i.e., any worker still leaving the home for in-person work), whether they have symptoms or not.
- Priority is for higher-risk and symptomatic patients (Priority 1 and Priority 2), but if additional specimen collection and testing capacity is available after serving these patients, providers should also test exposed critical infrastructure workers.

### Should I test asymptomatic employees?

- Munson Healthcare is not currently recommending testing of asymptomatic individuals and does not have enough testing supplies to meet this demand.
- There is no value in testing asymptomatic employees as part of a return-to-work policy.
- If there has been known exposure, it should be weighed by their healthcare provider and not part of a general policy.

### What are Munson Healthcare's priorities for testing?

Our testing priorities are consistent with the MDHHS Priorities 1 and 2 patients, which includes inpatients at our hospitals, patients presenting to our system with compatible symptoms or due for certain procedures, as well as symptomatic health-care employees and first responders, those 65 or older, individuals **with COVID-19 symptoms** in high-risk congregate living arrangements (such as long-term care facilities, dorms, adult foster care, SNFs, homeless shelters, etc.), and individuals with underlying conditions with COVID-19 symptoms.

### Can Munson Healthcare test my employees?

If your employee falls into Priority 1 and 2 as described above, MHC is able to test as long as capabilities allow, directed by a healthcare provider. MHC is requiring a provider order for testing.

### Why can't Munson Healthcare test my employees?

Due to MHC's limited testing capacity and the supplies required to collect specimens, we currently only have the means to test MDHHS "priority 1 and 2" patients and Munson Healthcare employees who meet criteria. These priorities include patients and employees exhibiting signs and symptoms of the virus.

### What are MHC's capacity constraints related to testing supplies?

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### Why not test all employees/workers?

A spot test is not very helpful because it does not rule out early infection nor the possibility of becoming infected any time after the test is done. Unless mass testing is done as part of a well-designed study, testing "everyone" has very limited value.

### How do I know if a testing facility/lab is reliable if I can't use MHC?

You can ensure a testing facility or lab is reliable if it is a CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) accredited laboratory.

### Where should I send my employees who need to be tested?

They should contact their primary care provider or call the Munson Healthcare Ask a Nurse Hotline at **231-935-0951**, first to be triaged for necessity of testing. If testing is determined to be necessary, a provider order is required to be tested at any MHC testing location.

### What else should I be doing for my employees?

- As a reminder, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services advises that **all healthcare workers** should be self-monitoring for signs of COVID-19. *Self-monitoring* for COVID-19 means monitoring yourself for fever of >100.0° F by taking your temperature twice a day and remaining alert for respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, sore throat). The purpose of self-monitoring is to identify illness early and self-isolate to reduce the potential of transmission.
- Businesses are required to screen all employees before entering work.
- If they do not pass the screening or have symptoms at home have the employee call their primary care provider or the Munson Healthcare Ask a Nurse Hotline at **231-935-0951**.
- Employees should also practice proper handwashing and social distancing guidelines, and wear a cloth mask if in an enclosed public space.

### What is the Munson Healthcare Ask a Nurse Hotline?

The Ask a Nurse Hotline **231-935-0951** is open to the public and is staffed by Munson Healthcare nurses 7 days a week from 7 am - 7 pm. This is a great resource for anyone who does not currently have a Primary Care Provider.

