

WGH COVID-19 Swabbing Guideline - April 8, 2020

Swabs	Symptomatic People to Test
> 70	<p><u>Routine - Tested at Public Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Non-admitted <u>suspect case</u> in the community (see suspect case definition) ● Non-admitted <u>symptomatic</u> patient with multiple high-risk medical comorbidities ● <u>Symptomatic</u> patients or staff from Nursing Home, Retirement Home, First Nations Reserve, or Institution (Prison, Group Home, Shelter, etc.) ● <u>Symptomatic irreplaceable essential workers</u> (see definition) ● <u>Symptomatic</u> healthcare workers or health care facility staff ● Deceased on arrival or expire in ED and suspected of having COVID-19 ● Asymptomatic screening as directed by public health (see note below) <p><u>CRITICAL - Tested at PaLM Lab London Microbiology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Category 1 - <u>Symptomatic</u> patient who will be admitted, or soon to be admitted for surgery or obstetrics ● Category 2 - <u>Symptomatic</u> dialysis patient ● Category 3 - Transplant recipients and donors ● Category 4 - <u>Symptomatic</u> cancer patient ● Category 5 - <u>Symptomatic irreplaceable health care worker</u> (see definition)
41-70	<p><u>Routine - Tested at Public Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Symptomatic</u> patients or staff from Nursing Home, Retirement Home, First Nations Reserve, or Institution (Prison, Group Home, Shelter, etc.) ● <u>Symptomatic irreplaceable essential workers</u> (see definition) ● <u>Symptomatic</u> healthcare workers or health care facility staff <p><u>CRITICAL - Tested at PaLM Lab London Microbiology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All Category 1 - Category 5 as above
21-40	<p><u>Routine - Tested at Public Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Symptomatic</u> patients from Nursing Home, Retirement Home, First Nations Reserve, or Institution (Prison, Group Home, Shelter, etc.) ● <u>Symptomatic irreplaceable essential workers</u> (see definition) <p><u>CRITICAL - Tested at PaLM Lab London Microbiology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All Category 1 - Category 5 as above
≤ 20	<p><u>CRITICAL - Tested at PaLM Lab London Microbiology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Category 1 - Admitted patients on mechanical ventilation ● Category 5 - <u>Symptomatic irreplaceable health care worker</u> (see definition)

NOTE: Testing not indicated without symptoms, except for the following scenarios:

- Asymptomatic residents and staff of an institution (NH, RH, Prison, etc.) once a positive case has been identified, including recently deceased residents who were part of the outbreak but who were not previously tested, at the discretion of the Health Unit (call SWPH Unit).
- Part of an investigation of a cluster or outbreak (proceeding 2 cases at a time), at the discretion of the Health Unit (call SWPH Unit).

Definitions:

***Suspect case* –**

1. A patient with acute respiratory illness (fever **AND** at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough, shortness of breath)

OR

2. A patient with any acute respiratory illness AND having been in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case (see definition of contact) in the last 14 days prior to symptom onset

OR

3. A patient with severe acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough, shortness of breath; AND requiring hospitalization) AND in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that fully explains the clinical presentation

***Close contact* –**

A contact is a person who experienced any one of the following exposures during the 2 days before and the 14 days after the onset of symptoms of a probable or confirmed case:

4. Face-to-face contact with a probable or confirmed case within 1 meter and for more than 15 minutes
5. Direct physical contact with a probable or confirmed case
6. Direct care for a patient with probable or confirmed COVID-19 disease without using proper personal protective equipment

Note: for confirmed asymptomatic cases, the period of contact is measured as the 2 days before through the 14 days after the *date on which the sample was taken* which led to confirmation.

***Symptomatic* –** Fever, cough, sob, **OR** signs/symptoms of upper respiratory tract infections.

***Irreplaceable HCW* –** Health care workers and staff who's work must impact the entire hospital AND their absence would create a critical patient safety issue, in whom a temporary replacement for up to 2 weeks would be very difficult to find.

***Irreplaceable essential worker* –** A person whose work is essential to public safety or critical to maintain basic needs of society, and whom a temporary replacement for up to 2 weeks would be very difficult to find (i.e. certain members of EMS, Police, Fire, or other at the discretion of the physician).

Lab Notes:

1. COVID-19 and Respiratory Virus (VIRC Culture) testing can be completed on ONE (1) swab collection.
 - a. If both tests are required, please order COVID-19 and VIRC.
 - b. Separate forms are required for each testing protocol.
2. For COVID-19, NP swabs are preferred although throat swabs can be tested, if required.

CRITICAL vs Non-critical Tests:

Testing sent to the lab will be routed to one of two pathways:

1. CRITICAL testing done by PaLM Microbiology in London with results in < 24hrs.
2. Routine testing done by Public Health Ontario with results in a few days.

NOTE: CRITICAL testing may be available by request, based on clinical judgement, by calling Microbiologist-on-Call to inform the lab of case details (519-685-8500 x19000).

Orders/forms and CRITICAL testing:

1. Order the test on PowerChart or FirstNet:
 - a. Place “COVID-19” order
 - b. If COVID-19 screening form has not been completed in the last 24hrs, you must complete this in order to submit the order.
2. Complete the Public Health Notification form for all CRITICAL and routine tests
3. Admitted patients will automatically be sent for CRITICAL testing
4. Notify the lab for all CRITICAL testing by placing a “COVID Critical Test Protocol” sticker on the bag
5. Complete Public Health COVID-19 Test Requisition for all routine tests.

COVID-19 Sample Submission Algorithm

