

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis  
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD  
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

**MEMO**

**TO:** Health Care Providers

**FROM:** Terri Harder, Program Manager  
Epidemiology and Health Assessment  
Florida Department of Health-Collier County

**RE:** Clinical Screening Tool for Identifying Persons Under Investigation for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Version 4.2

**DATE:** March 16, 2020

Attached is an updated screening tool (version 4.2) for identifying persons under investigation for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Please begin using this to guide public health vs. commercial testing recommendations.

Please immediately notify the epidemiology program at the Department of Health in Collier County to report patients who meet criteria to be evaluated as a person under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19. The epidemiology program may be contacted at (239)252-8226 or at (239)293-3010 after regular business hours. Thank you.



## Clinical Screening Tool for Identifying Persons Under Investigation for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Symptomatic individuals should be asked to wear a surgical mask upon arrival. Initiate contact and airborne precautions, using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Version 4.2 | March 15, 2020

### SCREENING CRITERIA

If your patient is exhibiting **symptoms** of acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., fever, cough, and shortness of breath) **and** meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Persons who have had a close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case
2. Persons hospitalized with acute lower respiratory illness of unknown origin
3. History of travel to or from an affected geographic area with widespread community transmission
4. History of international travel or a cruise
5. ≥65 with chronic health conditions
6. Immunocompromised persons



### TESTING

If individual meets criteria for testing, wear appropriate PPE and initiate contact and airborne precautions.

1. The health care provider is responsible for specimen collection, handling and shipping. Please follow [CDC guidance](#).
2. Collected specimens should be processed within your health care facility, if available; a commercial laboratory (e.g., [LabCorp](#) and [Quest](#)); or a [Florida Bureau of Public Health Laboratory \(BPHL\)](#)
3. Before sending specimens to BPHL, notify your local county health department [CHD Epidemiology Contacts](#).
4. Health care providers may consult local county health departments for additional guidance as needed.



### EXPANDED CRITERIA

If your patient does not meet the above criteria, testing may occur based on clinician's judgement.

1. The health care provider is responsible for specimen collection, handling and shipping. Please follow [CDC guidance](#) and use proper PPE.
2. Collected specimens should be processed within your health care facility or a commercial laboratory (e.g., [LabCorp](#) and [Quest](#)).
3. Follow [CDC guidance](#) for specimen collection, handling and shipping.

### FOR ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

Providers are encouraged to frequently monitor Florida Department of Health and CDC websites for updated guidance on COVID-19.

- [www.flhealth.gov](http://www.flhealth.gov)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Please see the CDC's: [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Healthcare Settings](#)