

COVID-19 Testing



Children's
Healthcare of Atlanta

Physician Guidance for Testing Inquiries

Updated: Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Children's continues to collaborate with the Georgia Department of Public Health to ensure that patient assessment, diagnosis and management is conducted according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [guidelines](#). Please continue to identify, isolate and inform when providing care for any child who may have a transmissible infection, including those with COVID-19.

Refer to the [CDC guidelines](#) for additional guidance for assessing and managing risk based on different exposures to COVID-19.

How to respond to a patient/family with known exposure to COVID-19 but is [asymptomatic](#):

If they call:

- Do not bring them in.
- Assess their condition over the phone and then contact the Georgia Department of Public Health at 1-866-PUB-HLTH (1-866-782-4584) and request to speak to the medical epidemiologist on call who can instruct you and the patient.

If they are physically in your office:

- Immediately isolate them by placing patient and family in a single room.
- Physicians should place a regular mask on any child with respiratory symptoms and on their accompanying family members, if those resources are available.
- When airborne + contact + standard precautions are not feasible, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that contact + droplet + standard isolation precautions (procedure mask, gown, gloves and eye protection) may be used for care of patients with any respiratory illness, including suspected COVID-19 infections in emergency departments, urgent care centers and ambulatory sites.
- Physicians should contact the Georgia Department of Public Health at 1-866-PUB-HLTH (1-866-782-4584) and request to speak to the medical epidemiologist on call.
- You may also call the **Children's Transfer Center 404-785-7778 and ask to speak to the Infectious Disease physician on call.**
- Gather a list of the patients who were near the patient at the time of exposure. This may be needed by the DPH for follow up.

How to respond to a patient/family with known exposure to COVID-19 who is **symptomatic**:

If they call:

- Do not bring them in.
- Assess their condition over the phone and then contact the Georgia Department of Public Health at 1-866-PUB-HLTH (1-866-782-4584) and request to speak to the medical epidemiologist on call who can instruct you and the patient.
- You may also call the **Children's Transfer Center 404-785-7778 and ask to speak to the Infectious Disease physician on call.**

If they are ill and require hospitalization:

- **Prior to referring a patient to a Children's facility, please call the Children's Transfer Center 404-785-7778 and ask to speak to the Infectious Disease physician on call.**
Children's can then prepare to meet the child outside with the appropriate equipment to minimize additional exposure.
- Please do not send to Emergency or Urgent care without contacting as this may expose hundreds of children and staff, unnecessarily.

If they are physically in your office:

- Immediately isolate them by placing patient and family in a single room.
- Physicians should place a regular mask on any child with respiratory symptoms and on their accompanying family members, if those resources are available.
- When airborne + contact + standard precautions are not feasible, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that contact + droplet + standard isolation precautions (procedure mask, gown, gloves and eye protection) may be used for care of patients with any respiratory illness, including suspected COVID-19 infections in emergency departments, urgent care centers and ambulatory sites.
- Physicians should contact the Georgia Department of Public Health at 1-866-PUB-HLTH (1-866-782-4584) and request to speak to the medical epidemiologist on call.
- Gather a list of the patients who were near the patient at the time of exposure. This may be needed by the DPH for follow up.

Refer to www.choa.org/covid19forphysicians for additional information.

