

# COVID-19 Testing

---



## 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](http://www.choa.org/covid19forphysicians) for additional information.

