



COVID-19 and Seasonal Influenza: Interim Guidance for Health Care and Public Health Providers

TESTING

| COVID-19 Testing Definitions and Strategies | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Strategy | Individuals Tested | Goals of Testing | Timing and Frequency | Patients EXCLUDED from Testing |
| DIAGNOSTIC Testing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm diagnosis of COVID-19 using PCR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test when patient presents with symptoms or signs of COVID-19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No exclusions |
| EXPOSURE Testing: OUTBREAK RESPONSE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad-based testing of asymptomatic people in the entire facility or institution of COVID-19 (e.g., housing, worksite, shared ventilation) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the extent of transmission in the institution Identify patients who are infected for isolation and monitoring Limit transmission with rapid isolation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As soon as possible after one or more cases are identified among residents or staff at an institution Serial testing every 3-7 days of groups (e.g., housing, worksite) of contacts who initially tested negative until all tests are negative for at least 14 days For outbreak response testing, consider prioritizing patients at high risk of morbidity or mortality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early resolved <90 days |
| EXPOSURE Testing: QUARANTINE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asymptomatic contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 (e.g., housing, yard, worksite) in quarantine | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify patients who are infected for isolation and monitoring Identify individuals eligible for release from quarantine | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the beginning of quarantine (within 24 hours if not tested within last 3 days or at 3 days post-exposure), middle of quarantine (day 5), and end of quarantine (day 10) Serial testing every 3-7 days of contacts who initially tested negative until all tests are negative for at least 10 days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early resolved <90 days |
| SCREENING Testing: MEDICAL INDICATIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients using aerosol-generating devices (e.g., nebulizers) Unvaccinated high risk patients (COVID-19 risk score 3+) Immunocompromised patients | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early diagnosis to reduce morbidity and mortality among patients at higher risk of severe COVID-19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least weekly in facilities that are not experiencing an outbreak (no new cases in 14 days) Upon patient request | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early resolved <90 days Fully vaccinated |



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| SCREENING Testing: INCARCERATED WORKERS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susceptible workers who may come into contact with staff, other incarcerated persons, volunteers or visitors within or outside the institution. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify infections in asymptomatic non-exposed workers to prevent transmission to other residents and staff | See January 28, 2022, memorandum " Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination, Booster and Testing for Institution/Facility Staff " (CDCR networking required for access) | |
| SCREENING Testing: TRANSFERS MOVEMENT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrivals from a county jail, return from out-to-court Inter-facility transfers, transfers to fire camps Release to the community, parole, probation Returns from medical/hospital, off-site appointments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the safety of transfers Reduce the risk of introduction of the virus Early identification of asymptomatic infection | See COVID-19 Screening and Testing Matrix for Patient Movement (Appendix 13) | |
| SCREENING Testing: GROUP ACTIVITIES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All incarcerated persons participating in in-person group activities and gatherings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the safety of programming | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly testing if participation is ongoing Single test within 72 hours prior to the activity if unvaccinated | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early resolved <90 days Fully vaccinated |
| SCREENING Testing: PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEILLANCE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susceptible unvaccinated individuals representing cohorts that regularly congregate or share air space (e.g., housing unit, worksite) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detect outbreaks in an early phase to limit spread and prevent morbidity and mortality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine testing of a sample of unvaccinated residents from housing cohort in facilities that are not experiencing an outbreak | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early resolved <90 days Fully vaccinated |

Footnotes:

Fully vaccinated is defined as 14 or more days after the last recommended dose of vaccine. For multi-dose series, the intervals must be within recommendations.

Screening for outside hospitals or specialty services may have different requirements.

Excerpted from the Testing section of the CCHCS Interim Guidance for Health Care and Public Health Providers: <https://cchcs.ca.gov/covid-19-interim-guidance/>