



Testing Guidelines and Resources for Employers

The following FAQs explain Munson Healthcare’s testing priorities and provides guidelines and resources for local employers.

Test type	How does it work?	Can I trust it?	Should I get one?
PCR Viral Test	A nasal or throat swab that detects the genetic presence of the virus.	Yes. Viral tests are the most accurate and reliable COVID-19 tests to date.	Your primary care provider will order a PCR test if you are showing symptoms or have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual. This test may be ordered by your provider before certain surgeries and procedures
Antibody Test	A blood test that detects the presence of antibodies that may have developed as a response to the presence of a virus.	No. Antibody tests are still presenting a high percentage of false positive and false negative tests.	Munson Healthcare recommends antibody testing only as part of a recognized data study. There is no clinical use for antibody testing at this time.
Antigen Test	A swab or blood test that detects antigen - which is the molecule on the virus’s surface causing the body to create viral antibodies.	No. Antigen tests are not FDA-approved and are presenting a high rate of false negative tests that must be confirmed with a PCR test.	Munson Healthcare does not provide antigen testing at this time.

Which of my employees should be tested?

Any employees showing symptoms or who have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual should undergo PCR testing. For more detailed information please visit the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) at [michigan.gov/mdhhs](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs).

Should I test asymptomatic employees?

- Munson Healthcare is not currently recommending testing of asymptomatic individuals.
- There is no value in testing asymptomatic employees as part of a return-to-work policy.
- If there has been known exposure, it should be weighed by their healthcare provider and not part of a general policy.

What are Munson Healthcare’s priorities for testing?

Our testing priorities include inpatients at our hospitals, patients presenting to our system with compatible symptoms or due for certain procedures, as well as symptomatic healthcare employees and first responders, those 65 or older, individuals **with COVID-19 symptoms** in high-risk congregate living arrangements (such as long-term care facilities, dorms, adult foster care, skilled nursing facilities, homeless shelters, etc.), and individuals with underlying conditions with COVID-19 symptoms.

Can Munson Healthcare test my employees?

Munson Healthcare will test anyone showing symptoms or anyone who has been exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual. **A provider order for testing is required.**

Why not test all employees/workers?

A spot test is not very helpful because it does not rule out early infection nor the possibility of becoming infected any time after the test is done. Unless mass testing is done as part of a well-designed study, testing “everyone” has very limited value.

How do I know if a testing facility/lab is reliable if I can't use Munson Healthcare?

For lab testing and facility information please visit MDHHS at michigan.gov/mdhhs.

Where should I send my employees who need to be tested?

They should contact their primary care provider or call the Munson Healthcare COVID-19 Hotline at **231-935-0951**, first to be triaged for necessity of testing. The employee will receive a PCR test order at a Munson Healthcare facility if they are showing symptoms or have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual.

You may also find testing sites at michigan.gov/coronavirustest.

What else should I be doing for my employees?

Stay up-to-date with the latest Michigan executive orders affecting employer responsibilities during the pandemic. Executive orders can be found under the News tab at michigan.gov/whitmer.

- If they do not pass the screening or have symptoms at home your employee should call their primary care provider or the Munson Healthcare COVID-19 Hotline at **231-935-0951**.
- Employees should also practice proper handwashing and social distancing guidelines, and wear a mask if in an enclosed public space.

Why does Munson Healthcare not recommend antibody testing?

Munson Healthcare recommends antibody testing only as part of a recognized data study. There is no clinical use for antibody testing at this time. Although mass antibody testing is valuable from a data-tracking standpoint, there are continuing questions about the quality and accuracy of the individual results. To learn more please visit munsonhealthcare.org/blog/just-the-facts-covid-19-antibody-testing.

What is the Munson Healthcare COVID-19 Hotline?

The Munson Healthcare COVID-19 Hotline **231-935-0951** is open to the public and is staffed by Munson Healthcare nurses Monday - Friday from 8 am - 5 pm. The Munson Healthcare COVID-19 Hotline is a great resource for anyone who does not currently have a Primary Care Provider.

