

March 25, 2020

VITAL NEW COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR AMBULATORY PROVIDERS: Prioritization for Testing Patients with Suspected COVID-19 Infection (3/25/20)

The [Ambulatory Workflow](#) for the triage and testing of suspected COVID-19 patients has been updated and is posted to the [web](#) along with pertinent forms and resources.

VITAL NEW INFORMATION: The CDC has provided direction on the [prioritization](#) for testing patients with suspected COVID-19 infection.

PRIORITY 1

Ensures optimal care options for all hospitalized patients, lessens the risk of healthcare-associated infections, and maintains the integrity of the U.S. healthcare system

- Hospitalized patients
- Healthcare facility workers with symptoms

PRIORITY 2

Ensures those at highest risk of complication of infection are rapidly identified and appropriately triaged

- Patients in long-term care facilities with symptoms
- Patients 65 years of age and older with symptoms
- Patients with underlying conditions with symptoms
- First responders with symptoms

PRIORITY 3

As resources allow, test individuals in the surrounding community of rapidly increasing hospital cases to decrease community spread, and ensure health of essential workers

- Critical infrastructure workers with symptoms
- Individuals who do not meet any of the above categories with symptoms
- Healthcare facility workers and first responders
- Individuals with mild symptoms in communities experiencing high numbers of COVID-19 hospitalizations

NON-PRIORITY

- Individuals without symptoms