

## MSDH RECOMMENDED COVID-19 TESTING PRIORITIES

Priority patients for COVID-19 testing are those with fever ( $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) and acute respiratory illness (e.g. cough, difficulty breathing) who meet the following criteria\*:

Hospitalized patients who have signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19.
Symptomatic healthcare personnel, especially with a history of travel to an affected country ( <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html</a> ) or known contact to a suspected or confirmed cases in the 14 days prior to symptom onset.
Other symptomatic individuals (fever of $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ and acute respiratory illness), especially in individuals at higher risk for poor outcomes (older adults and/or underlying chronic disease)

\*For patients who do not meet the above priorities, clinicians may also elect to submit samples to a commercial laboratory for SARS-CoV-2 testing (the virus that causes COVID-19). **Submission of samples to the public health laboratory or a commercial laboratory does not require prior approval from MSDH.**

### Sample Submission to the Mississippi Public Health Laboratory

Samples may be dropped off at the local county health department for shipment to the MPHL Monday-Friday, and directly at the MPHL daily from 8:00am-4:30pm, including Saturday and Sunday

#### Specimen Collection

- COVID-19 Specimen Collection <https://msdh.ms.gov/file/8501.pdf>
- COVID-19 Lab Requisition Form <https://msdh.ms.gov/file/8500.pdf>

#### Specimen Packaging

- COVID-19 Refrigerated Specimen Packaging <https://msdh.ms.gov/file/8499.pdf>
- COVID-19 Frozen Specimen Packaging (optional for hospitals) <https://msdh.ms.gov/file/8498.pdf>

#### Specimen Transport and Delivery

- COVID-19 Specimen Transport and Delivery <https://msdh.ms.gov/file/8497.pdf>

#### Specimen Reporting

- COVID-19 Specimen Reporting <https://msdh.ms.gov/file/8496.pdf>
- MPHL Fax Reporting Agreement <https://msdh.ms.gov/file/8495.pdf>

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