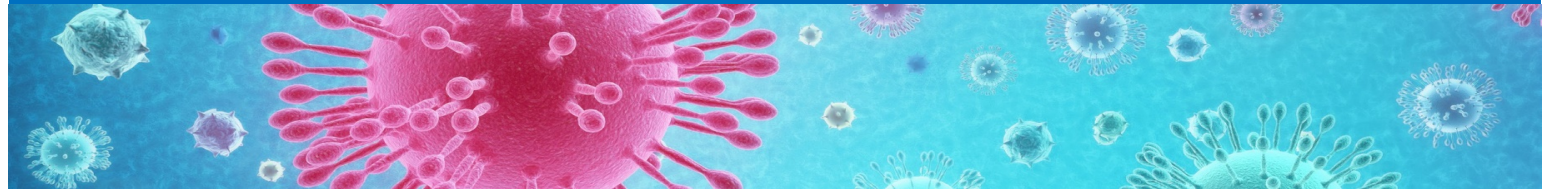# Indiana Statewide Labs Testing Network Testing Guidance

Testing capabilities in the state of Indiana continues to increase. Along with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and their priority groups for testing for COVID-19, Indiana has developed recommendations for prioritizing testing in the state. These criteria were created with the information that is currently known about COVID-19 and may change as additional information becomes available or new situations evolve. Throughout the COVID-19 response, SARS-CoV-2 testing has been limited due to material constraints. The overarching goal of the lab testing network is to increase testing capacity across Indiana and to diversify platforms.

Testing is one of the components used to ensure that individuals who are infected with the virus are identified early, and they are isolated with contact tracing completed to minimize the spread of the virus to others. Prioritized testing establishes a plan for access to testing for the most ill and vulnerable (older than 65, chronic medical problems, patients in congregate living, and racial and ethnic minorities) patients and limits the spread in congregate settings.

Critical:
- Hospitalized patients **with** symptoms.
- Healthcare personnel, which includes behavioral health providers, home health workers, nursing facility and assisted living employees, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), housekeepers and others who work in healthcare and congregate livings settings **with** symptoms.
    - Congregate living settings are those where more than 6 reside with a propensity for rapid person-to-person spread, including but not limited to: assisted living facilities, nursing facilities, Indiana Veterans Homes, residential mental health and substance use treatment facilities, psychiatric hospitals and group home settings, developmental centers, intermediate care facilities and group homes for individuals with intellectual disabilities, facilities operated by the Indiana Department of Youth Services, facilities operated by the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, homeless and domestic violence shelters, and jails.
- Residents in long-term care facilities or other congregate living settings, including prisons and shelters, **with** symptoms.

High Priority:
- Persons with symptoms of potential COVID-19 infection, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting, diarrhea, and/or sore throat. Additional consideration should be given for testing patients greater than 65 years old, those with underlying medical conditions including heart and lung disease, or who are immunocompromised, obese or pregnant women, and racial and ethnic minorities due to being disproportionately affected by adverse COVID-19 outcomes.
- Residents and staff of long-term care facilities and congregate living settings who are without symptoms as recommended for sentinel surveillance and screening. See CDC's May 19 guidance for nursing homes.
- Other individuals or groups designated by the public health authorities to evaluate and manage community outbreaks, including those within workplaces and other large gatherings.

When Supplies are Available:
- Individuals receiving essential surgeries and procedures, including those who were reassessed after a delay.
- Individuals receiving all other medically necessary procedures.
- Individuals receiving non-essential/elective surgeries and procedures.
- Individuals without symptoms not otherwise mentioned above.

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