



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Testing Guidelines for COVID-19 continue to change. Testing swabs and viral transport medium remain in short supply across the country. ISDH will continue to focus on testing our highest-risk patients to provide a fast turnaround time. Most people with mild symptoms do not need to be tested and should follow the self-isolation guidelines established by CDC. ISDH supplies all the needed collection materials to providers and will not accept a specimen that has not been approved prior to collection.

The latest guidelines are as follows:

ISDH Testing Guidelines: March 18, 2020

- 1) **Patient requiring hospitalization with fever and lower respiratory symptoms, constituting:**
 - a. Admission to the hospital due to complications of their acute respiratory illness.
- 2) **Healthcare workers (inpatient, outpatient, nursing home, and other long-term service facilities) and EMS staff who provide direct patient care to at risk patients:**
 - a. Symptomatic with fever and lower respiratory symptoms and in their role has potential or unknown exposure to at risk patients.
- 3) **Long-term care facility residents or prison/jail residents and staff (who have direct contact with patients or inmates):**
 - a. Symptomatic with fever and respiratory illness or otherwise no known COVID-19 contact.
- 4) **Persons experiencing homelessness:**
 - a. Symptomatic with fever and respiratory illness and otherwise no known COVID-19 contact.