



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service



Public Health
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Updated COVID-19 Testing Guidance

7/30/2020

The State recently provided guidance to support public health officials, health care providers, and laboratories in determining who should be tested given the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic in California.

Tier One Priority

- Hospitalized individuals with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Investigation and management of outbreaks, under direction of state and local public health departments (includes contact tracing).

Tier Two Priority

- All other individuals with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Close contacts of confirmed cases.
- Individuals who have no symptoms of COVID 19, who fall into one of the following categories:
 1. Live in higher risk congregate care facilities including skilled nursing facilities, residential care facilities for the elderly, correctional facilities, or homeless shelters.
 2. Work in the health care sector who have frequent interactions with the public or with people who may have COVID-19 or have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2.
 3. Work in a congregate care facility, including shelters for people experiencing homelessness and residential care facilities for the elderly.
 4. Provide care to an elderly person or a person with a disability in the home, including a person providing care through California's In-Home Supportive Services Program.
 5. Work in the emergency services sector or safety departments and have frequent interactions with the public or with people who may have COVID-19 or have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2.
 6. Work in a correctional facility.
 7. Patients requiring pre-operative/pre-hospital admission screening.
 8. Patients being discharged from hospitals to lower levels of care.



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Tier Three Priority

The following individuals who are asymptomatic (having no symptoms of COVID 19), and fall into one of the following categories:

- Individuals who work in the retail or manufacturing sectors who have frequent interactions with the public or who work in an environment where it is not practical to maintain at least six feet of space from other workers on a consistent basis.
- Individuals who work in the food services sector who have frequent interactions with the public. The food services sector includes grocery stores, convenience stores, restaurants, and grocery or meal delivery services.
- Individuals who work in the agricultural or food manufacturing sector who have frequent interactions with the public or who work in an environment where it is not practical to maintain at least six feet of space from other workers on a consistent basis.
- Individuals who work in the public transportation sector who have frequent interactions with the public.
- Individuals who work in the education sector who have frequent interactions with students or the public.

Tier Four Priority

Tier Four would be implemented when the state's testing turnaround time, as monitored by CDPH, is less than 48 hours.

- Other individuals not specified above including: those who are asymptomatic but believe they have a risk for being actively infected as well as routine testing by employers.

Testing Discrimination and Inappropriate Workplace Testing

As modifications are made to public health directives and more sectors of the economy open with adaptations, it is important that employers do not use testing to impermissibly discriminate against employees who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 (such as by preventing them from resuming work after they can do so in a manner consistent with public health and safety). This does not mean an employer must allow an employee who currently has COVID-19 to return to work before the employee's infection is resolved. **Further, because PCR tests can remain positive long after an individual is no longer infectious, proof of a negative test should not be required prior to returning to the workplace after documented COVID infection.** Rather, symptom- or protocol-based criteria should be used in determining when an employee is safe to return to the workplace. For local guidance visit:

<https://www.countyofnapa.org/DocumentCenter/View/18012/Returning-to-Work>.



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Reminder - Local jurisdictions may modify these guidelines to account for local conditions or patterns of transmission.

- For more information on State Testing, visit: <https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/>.
- State Testing Task force Lab List: <https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/332/2020/07/COVID-19-Testing-Task-Force-Lab-List-updated-07-23-20.pdf>
- Information adapted from:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Updated-COVID-19-Testing-Guidance.aspx>.