Office of the Director

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1300
Seattle, WA 98104-1818
206-296-4600 Fax 206-296-0166
TTY Relay: 711
www.kingcounty.gov/health

Public Health
Seattle & King County

COVID-19 Testing and Care Information

Who should be tested for COVID-19?
While there are no longer requirements for COVID-19 testing, currently testing is at capacity and we must prioritize testing until testing resources become more available. Healthcare providers should focus on high-priority populations. We currently have to prioritize testing for those who have or are most at-risk for developing severe illness or who live or work in a high-risk setting, like a healthcare facility.

Not everyone needs to be tested for COVID-19. Most people with mild illness do not need testing. With no medications currently available to treat COVID-19, your healthcare provider's advice for managing your symptoms at home will be the same whether results are positive or negative.

Please use these guidelines for COVID-19 testing

The following patients with COVID-19 symptoms should be tested for COVID-19:
- Patients hospitalized with severe lower respiratory illness
- Staff that work in any setting where healthcare services are delivered (for example, clinics, hospitals, behavioral health care clinics).
- Patients in other public safety occupations (for example, law enforcement, fire fighter, EMS)
- Patients who live or work in an institutional setting (for example, corrections, long term care facility, homeless/shelters)

The following patients with COVID-19 symptoms should contact their healthcare provider and be tested for COVID-19 if their symptoms worsen or their healthcare provider recommends testing:
- Patients older than 60 years
- Patients with underlying medical conditions
- Pregnant women

Who should seek medical care for COVID-19?
- If you have symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, or shortness of breath), call your healthcare provider to help decide if you should seek care.
- Do not go to the emergency room unless you are having an immediate medical emergency. Emergency rooms need to be able to serve those with the most critical needs.
- People who receive a positive test result for COVID-19 should not seek medical care unless they are experiencing severe symptoms that may require hospitalization. Less severe symptoms can be treated at home.

People who have been potentially exposed to someone with COVID-19 should stay at home and avoid public places if at all possible for the next 14 days.