



# Health Advisory:

## Expanding COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing to Asymptomatic Frontline or Essential Workers

May 5, 2020

### SITUATIONAL UPDATE

What has changed from our 4/28/2020 Health Advisory on COVID-19 testing criteria and availability:

- As local COVID-19 diagnostic testing capacity has increased, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) is recommending that SF asymptomatic frontline or essential workers are tested, in addition to groups previously recommended.
- At CityTestSF, the City-sponsored testing sites, testing criteria have expanded accordingly.
- The timing for testing asymptomatic close contacts has been clarified.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Clinicians are **encouraged** to test:

- 1) **Persons with any one of the symptoms of COVID-19** including: temperature greater than 100.4F (38.0C), cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, chills, headache, body aches, fatigue, loss of smell or taste, diarrhea, runny nose, or nasal congestion
- 2) **Asymptomatic close contacts of lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases.**
  - a) A “**close contact**” of a “case” of COVID-19 is defined as living or staying at the same residence, being an intimate sexual partner, staying within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes while the case is not wearing a mask, or having direct contact for any amount of time with the body fluids or secretions of the case (e.g. was coughed or sneezed on, shared utensils, was provided care by, or provided care for the case, without wearing a mask, gown, and gloves).
  - b) Asymptomatic close contacts should be tested at 2 time points: upon learning of the exposure; and again at day 10-14 of the 14-day quarantine period, with at least 7 days between tests.  
*- AND NOW -*
- 3) **Asymptomatic frontline or essential workers.**
  - a) A “**frontline or essential worker**” is one who must leave their home to do their job and either: (a) works directly with vulnerable populations (such as those who are experiencing homelessness, have serious medical conditions, or who are over age 60); (b) interacts in



person with members of the public; or (c) cannot maintain social distancing at their jobs. Frontline and essential workers include those who work in healthcare, public safety, food service, grocery, construction delivery, janitorial, transit, social work, or street cleaning, among other jobs.

- b) **Asymptomatic frontline or essential workers** should not be screened/tested more frequently than every 14 days unless there is a new exposure or new symptoms. Optimal testing intervals are not yet fully known. SFPDH will update guidance as new data are available.

Please also note the following:

- Clinicians should continue to send specimens for testing at other commercial or clinical laboratories per their institution's policy. However, if other commercial or clinical laboratories are limited in their ability to process specimens, samples can be sent to the SF Public Health Lab without the need for prior approval. Please use the COVID-specific specimen collection form at <https://www.sfc-dcp.org/public-health-lab/forms-specimen-culture-submission/>.
- If testing demand exceeds capacity for specimen collection at your location (e.g. lack of PPE, staff, or collection swabs), SFPDH encourages clinicians to prioritize testing for patients in vulnerable populations as listed in the 3/27 Health Advisory: <https://www.sfc-dcp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Testing-COVID19-Health-Advisory-FINAL-03.27.2020.pdf>). Clinicians unable to collect specimens at their location may call the SFPDH COVID-19 Clinical Consultation line at 415-554-2830 to refer patients to a SF Health Network site for testing.
- If testing demand exceeds capacity for specimen processing at the SF Public Health Lab, there may be a longer turn-around time for patients who are not members of vulnerable populations.

## **TESTING AVAILABILITY AT "CITYTESTSF"**

At CityTestSF, the City-sponsored testing sites, testing is now available for:

- **Adults living in San Francisco who have any one of the symptoms of COVID-19, or who (symptomatic or not) have had close contact with a COVID-19 case within the past 14 days**
- **Frontline or essential workers that serve San Francisco (symptomatic or not)**

Testing is by appointment at one of the two CityTestSF centers. A physician referral for testing is not necessary. Patients will not be charged for the test and are not required to have health insurance, although patients will be asked for insurance information if available.

CityTestSF is planning further expansion of testing at its sites; please continue to check <https://sf.gov/citytestsf> for future updates.



## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Testing continues to be available at other San Francisco health care sites and systems, by healthcare provider referral. Please check with your plan or site for access and availability.

Persons seeking to enroll in healthcare may call the SF Health Network Call Center at 415-682-1740.

### **Program Contact Information:**

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