

UW Medicine

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Testing Criteria

| Clinical Features | Risk Factors? | SARS-CoV-2 Testing? |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Asymptomatic | | No |
| Symptoms of acute respiratory infection (such as fever, new cough, new shortness of breath, myalgias, etc.) And does NOT require hospitalization | None | Defer to clinical judgement |
| Symptoms of acute respiratory infection (such as fever, new cough, new shortness of breath, myalgias, etc.) | Special Populations* | Yes ³ |
| Symptoms of acute respiratory infection (such as fever, new cough, new shortness of breath, myalgias, etc.) | Any of the following in the last 14 days before symptom onset: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to affected areas¹ • Close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case² • Spent time at skilled nursing facilities (including Life Care Center) | Yes ³ |
| Symptoms of acute respiratory infection (such as fever, new cough, new shortness of breath, myalgias, etc.) requiring hospitalization | | Yes ³ |

¹ **UW Medicine Current Outbreak List:** Please refer to the [UW Medicine COVID-19 Website](#).

² **Close contact:** Approximately 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time; close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case or having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on)

³ **SARS-CoV-2 sample collection:** Nasopharyngeal swabs often generate a strong cough reflex. Standard/Contact/Droplet precautions are recommended. Please remember to collect samples from **both nostrils, using the same swab**. For additional instructions, please refer to Sample Collection for COVID19 Testing on our [UW Medicine COVID-19 Website](#). For ordering information, please review [UW Laboratory Test Guide](#). Please strongly consider testing for influenza/RSV when testing for COVID-19 as other respiratory viruses are currently circulating and co-infections can occur.

***Special Populations: Older adults (age ≥ 65 years), immunocompromised individuals** (e.g., cancer, solid organ transplant, other immunosuppressive drugs, chronic lung disease, hemodialysis, advanced HIV), **pregnant women**, and **people living homeless or in congregant facilities** (such as dorms, fraternities, sororities, shelters, jail, prison, skilled nursing facilities, adult family homes). For immunocompromised patients (including SCCA and solid organ transplant), please refer to our Immunocompromised Protocol. For pregnant patients, please refer to our Pregnancy Protocol. For **symptomatic healthcare workers**, please refer to our FAQ for Staff with Acute Respiratory Infections. All of the abovementioned protocols can be found on our [UW Medicine COVID-19 Website](#).