

# COVID-19 Testing Algorithm for the Adult Emergency Department

Last Updated September 28, 2020 at 2:10 PM EST

## All admissions to JHHS hospitals will be screened for COVID-19

- **Asymptomatic Testing Protocol:** Patients without symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 are not considered patients under investigation (PUIs). These patients are considered patients undergoing asymptomatic testing (PUAT). Test these patients using the “asymptomatic testing protocol” order in Epic. When caring for a PUAT, use a face shield and procedure/surgical mask. No negative pressure room required. Airborne PPE is not required except when performing [aerosol generating procedures](#) (including NP swab).
- **Re-Testing on Admission:** For known COVID-19 positive patients who had their first positive COVID-19 test within 90 days, refer to the important notes section of the COVID-19 Isolation Precaution Discontinuation document to determine if re-testing is needed on admission. To access this document, scan the QR code below: [intranet.insidehopkinsmedicine.org/heic/docs/2019-nCoV\\_patient\\_discharge\\_transfer.pdf](https://intranet.insidehopkinsmedicine.org/heic/docs/2019-nCoV_patient_discharge_transfer.pdf)

Criteria for Patients Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19		
Use airborne and contact precautions with eye protection and place the patient in a negative pressure room.		
Patient has respiratory failure <b>OR</b> is a resident of a long-term care facility, nursing home, correctional facility or homeless shelter <b>OR</b> is an immunocompromised patient (e.g. oncology, transplant) who has a fever not explained by an alternative diagnosis.	<b>and</b>	Is being admitted
Patient* has <b>TWO</b> of the following symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• documented or reported fever or chills;</li> <li>• cough (new or worsening);</li> <li>• sore throat;</li> <li>• runny nose or congestion;</li> <li>• headache;</li> <li>• shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (new or worsening);</li> <li>• muscle aches or significant new fatigue;</li> <li>• diarrhea or vomiting</li> </ul> *If the patient is a healthcare worker, first responder or resident of a long term care facility, refer to the last row of the table.	<b>and</b>	Is being admitted <b>OR</b> being discharged home
Patient* has <b>ONE</b> of the following symptoms <b>AND</b> has known laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 exposure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• documented or reported fever or chills;</li> <li>• cough (new or worsening);</li> <li>• sore throat;</li> <li>• runny nose or congestion;</li> <li>• headache;</li> <li>• shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (new or worsening);</li> <li>• muscle aches or significant new fatigue;</li> <li>• diarrhea or vomiting</li> </ul> *If the patient is a healthcare worker, first responder or resident of a long term care facility, refer to the last row of the table.	<b>and</b>	Is being admitted <b>OR</b> being discharged home
Patient has acute unexplained loss of smell or taste	<b>and</b>	Is being admitted <b>OR</b> being discharged home
Patient is a healthcare worker, first responder or resident of a long-term care facility, nursing home, correctional facility or homeless shelter <b>AND</b> has <b>ONE</b> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• documented or reported fever or chills;</li> <li>• cough (new or worsening);</li> <li>• sore throat;</li> <li>• shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (new or worsening);</li> <li>• unexplained loss of taste or smell</li> </ul> <b>OR</b> has <b>TWO</b> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• muscle aches or significant new fatigue;</li> <li>• diarrhea or vomiting;</li> <li>• runny nose or congestion;</li> <li>• headache</li> </ul>	<b>and</b>	Is being admitted <b>OR</b> being discharged home



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