

Cayuga Health System (CHS)

Cayuga Medical Center/Schuyler Hospital

COVID-19 Testing Criteria

Reviewed: 03/25/2020

Clinicians should use their judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested. Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 have developed fever and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing). The priorities we are able to accommodate may change over time depending on resources and will be communicated to those ordering tests as conditions change. Priorities for testing include:

Priority 1

Ensure optimal care options for all hospitalized patients, lessen the risk of nosocomial infections, and maintain the integrity of the healthcare system

- Hospitalized patients
- Symptomatic healthcare workers

Priority 2

Ensure that those who are at highest risk of complication of infection are rapidly identified and appropriately triaged

- Patients in long-term care facilities with symptoms
- Patients 65 years of age and older with symptoms
- Patients with underlying conditions with symptoms
- First responders with symptoms

Priority 3

As resources allow, test individuals in the surrounding community of rapidly increasing hospital cases to decrease community spread, and ensure health of essential workers

- Critical infrastructure workers with symptoms
- Individuals who do not meet any of the above categories with symptoms
- Health care workers and first responders
- Individuals with mild symptoms in communities experiencing high COVID-19 hospitalizations

Non-Priority

- Individuals without symptoms

Source: [Interim Guidance: Healthcare Professionals 2019-nCoV](#)