

Risk Groups to be Approved for COVID-19 Testing by DHSS

Risk Group	Definitions and Further Information
Symptomatic ¹ close contacts to a suspect COVID-19 patient with pending laboratory testing or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient	Close contact is defined as— a) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) 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 – b) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on) If such contact occurs while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment or PPE (e.g., gowns, gloves, NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator, eye protection), criteria for PUI consideration are met.
Symptomatic ¹ healthcare workers, law enforcement officers, fire department staff, and others who are considered first responders	Contact with a suspected or confirmed case is not required for these individuals.
Symptomatic ¹ residents of congregate living facilities whose residents are at higher risk for poor outcomes	Those at higher risk for poor outcomes can include older adults and individuals with chronic medical conditions and/or an immunocompromised state. Note: In some facilities with a large number of cases that indicate late detection of an outbreak or infection control lapses, testing for all staff and residents MAY be approved <u>on a case-by-case basis</u> in consultation with state epidemiology staff or DHSS Director.
Symptomatic ¹ hospitalized patients who have signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19	Testing for these individuals should be used to inform decisions regarding infection control.
Symptomatic ¹ patients who are at high risk for negative health outcomes from COVID-19	Risk for negative health outcomes is based on the provider’s clinical judgement.

Note: Postmortem testing can be approved through the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory if an individual would have met a criterion above prior to their death.

¹Symptoms may include any of the following: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, or any other relevant symptoms per medical provider judgement