

WV Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology
Criteria for Testing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
Effective March 4, 2020

Patients in West Virginia who meet the following criteria should be evaluated as a patient under investigation in association with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak:

1. Fever AND/OR signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) AND is any person, including health care workers, who has had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset.
2. Fever AND/OR signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization AND has a history of travel from affected geographic areas† within 14 days of symptom onset.
3. Fever with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g. pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization and without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g. influenza) AND no source of exposure has been identified.
4. Fever AND/OR signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) AND has a history of travel from affected geographic areas† within 14 days of symptom onset AND negative influenza test/multiplex PCR respiratory panel.

† Affected geographic areas include any U.S. state/locality with sustained (ongoing) transmission or countries with a level 2 or 3 travel health notice.

Note: exercise clinical judgement in evaluating patients with respiratory illness. If testing is indicated, influenza testing and respiratory panel should be conducted. If a patient is lab test (+) on these tests, we are currently considering COVID-19 as a remote possibility and not recommending further diagnostics specific for the COVID-19 virus. Exceptions for severely ill patients with atypical clinical presentation may be warranted.

All testing through the Office of Laboratory Services or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must receive prior approval for testing and be issued a PUI ID.

For testing approval and to obtain a PUI ID, contact the West Virginia Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services (OEPS), DIDE at (304) 558-5358, extension 1 or the 24/7 answering service at (304) 347-0843.