



**Priority Level for Testing Criteria:
Federal, State, and County Recommendations**

Priority Level	<u>Federal Testing Criteria</u> ^ (July 17, 2020)	<u>State Testing Criteria</u> (August 3, 2020)	<u>County Testing Criteria</u> (August 17, 2020)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals with signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitalized individuals with COVID-19 symptoms. Investigation and management of outbreaks, under direction of state and local public health departments (includes contact tracing). 	<p>High-Risk Symptomatic Individuals and Public Health Investigations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptomatic* individuals not diagnosed with COVID-19 in past 3 months¹ who are hospitalized, in congregate facilities,² older adults and those with chronic or underlying medical conditions, or in a vulnerable population. Persons identified for testing by public health investigations and disease control activities including those in potential outbreak settings.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asymptomatic individuals with recent known or suspected exposure to SARS-CoV-2 to control transmission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All other individuals with COVID-19 symptoms. Close contacts of confirmed cases. Individuals who are asymptomatic (having no symptoms of COVID 19), who fall into one of the following categories <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Live in higher risk congregate care facilities including skilled nursing facilities, residential care facilities for the elderly, correctional facilities, or homeless shelters. Work in the health care sector who have frequent interactions with the public or with people who may have COVID-19 or have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2. The health care sector includes hospitals, skilled nursing facilities; long-term care facilities; ambulatory surgery centers; health care providers' offices; health care clinics; pharmacies; blood banks; dialysis centers; hospices; and, home health providers Work in a congregate care facility, including shelters for people experience homelessness and residential care facilities for the elderly. Provide care to an elderly person or a person with a disability in the home, including a person providing care through California's In-Home Supportive Services Program. Work in the emergency services sector who have frequent interactions with the public or with people who may have COVID-19 or have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2. The emergency services sector includes police and other public safety departments (including, for example, child protective services and adult protective services departments), fire departments, and emergency service response operations. Work in a correctional facility. Patients requiring pre-operative/pre-hospital admission screening. Patients being discharged from hospitals to lower levels of care. 	<p>Other Symptomatic Individuals and Hospital and Procedure Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptomatic* persons who do not meet above symptomatic criteria, including healthcare workers and first responders, not diagnosed with COVID-19 in past 3 months. Hospital admission testing for patients who do not exhibit COVID-19 symptoms.* Scheduled surgical procedures, especially those that are aerosol generating.



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3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asymptomatic individuals without known or suspected exposure to SARS-CoV-2 for early identification in special settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following individuals who are asymptomatic (having no symptoms of COVID 19), and fall into one of the following categories: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals who work in the retail or manufacturing sectors who have frequent interactions with the public or who works in an environment where it is not practical to maintain at least six feet of space from other workers on a consistent basis. Individuals who work in the food services sector who have frequent interactions with the public. The food services sector includes grocery stores, convenience stores, restaurants, and grocery or meal delivery services. Individuals who work in the agricultural or food manufacturing sector who have frequent interactions with the public or who works in an environment where it is not practical to maintain at least six feet of space from other workers on a consistent basis. The agricultural or food manufacturing sector includes food production and processing facilities, slaughter facilities, harvesting sites or facilities, and food packing facilities. Individuals who work in the public transportation sector who have frequent interactions with the public. The public transportation sector includes public transit, passenger rail service, passenger ferry service, public airports, and commercial airlines. Individuals who work in the education sector who have frequent interactions with students or the public. The education sector includes public and private childcare establishments; public and private pre-kindergarten programs; primary and secondary schools; and public and private colleges and universities. 	<p>Asymptomatic Individuals from High-Risk Settings & Close Contacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening of asymptomatic individuals not diagnosed with COVID-19 in past 3 months⁴ who are residents or employees of congregate living facilities,² such as skilled nursing facilities,⁵ assisted living facilities, homeless shelters, substance use disorder residential facilities, correctional facilities, and detention centers. Asymptomatic close contacts⁶ not diagnosed with COVID-19 in past 3 months⁴ at 5-7 days after last exposure to a known COVID-19 case.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals being tested to determine resolution of infection (i.e., test-based strategy for Discontinuation of Transmission-based Precautions, HCP Return to Work, and Discontinuation of Home Isolation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tier Four would be implemented when the state's testing turnaround time, as monitored by the California Department of Public Health, is less than 48 hours. Other individuals not specified above including those who are asymptomatic but believe they have a risk for being actively infected as well as routine testing by employers. 	<p>Asymptomatic High-Risk Individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asymptomatic healthcare workers and first responders not diagnosed with COVID-19 in past 3 months⁴ in direct patient contact roles. Asymptomatic individuals in vulnerable populations³ not diagnosed with COVID-19 in past 3 months⁴ who are not in other categories above. Asymptomatic persons not diagnosed with COVID-19 in past 3 months⁴ in other essential occupations. This includes occupations such as utility workers, grocery store workers, food supply workers, and other public-facing employees including childcare and school workers.



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asymptomatic older adults (i.e., persons >65 years of age) OR any age with chronic or other medical conditions, such as pregnancy, that may increase the risk of severe COVID 19 illness as per the CDC⁷ who were not diagnosed with COVID-19 in past 3 months.⁴ Caretakers of older adults or those with underlying medical conditions defined above who were not diagnosed with COVID-19 in past 3 months.⁴ <p><i>When facing limitations of testing capacity for this Tier, consider prioritizing testing amongst those in zip codes with higher prevalence rate than the Countywide prevalence rate over testing those in zip codes with lower prevalence rate than the Countywide prevalence rate. Zip code and Countywide prevalence data can be found here.</i></p>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals being tested for purposes of public health surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Applicable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals being tested for purposes of public health surveillance for SARS-CoV-2.

Notes:

*COVID-19 symptoms may be updated by the CDC and can be found [here](#). They currently include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea. Note that elderly people might not develop fever.

^ The CDC has five populations for which SARS-CoV-2 testing with [viral tests](#) is recommended (i.e., nucleic acid or antigen tests).

References:

¹As per [CDC](#): "For persons who develop new symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during the 3 months after the date of initial symptom onset, if an alternative etiology cannot be identified by a provider, then the person may warrant retesting; consultation with infectious disease or infection control experts is recommended. Isolation may be considered during this evaluation based on consultation with an infection control expert, especially in the event symptoms develop within 14 days after close contact with an infected person."

²Congregate facilities include facilities where individuals live together, such as skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, detention facilities, homeless shelters, and substance use disorder residential treatment facilities.

³Vulnerable populations include those in ethnic and racial minority groups, people with HIV/AIDS, people experiencing homelessness, those in rural areas, and Native Americans. National and local data suggest that some groups are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and thus are included here. See CDC Health Equity considerations [here](#) and [here](#) for local race and ethnicity data.

⁴As per [CDC](#): "For persons previously diagnosed with symptomatic COVID-19 who remain asymptomatic after recovery, retesting is not recommended within 3 months after the date of symptom onset for the initial COVID-19 infection. In addition, quarantine is not recommended in the event of close contact with an infected person."

⁵Due to high morbidity and mortality, skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) have strong surveillance testing recommendations and should follow respective [state](#) and [national](#) guidance.

⁶Close contacts need to be quarantined for 14 days after last exposure regardless of their test result. Median time to symptom onset or the median incubation period is 4-5 days as per [CDC](#) so testing is locally being recommended around 5-7 days, unless the close contact becomes symptomatic earlier.

⁷Underlying medical conditions that CDC associates with increased risk or potentially increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 can be found [here](#).