

GENERAL FAQs: COVID-19 Testing for Adult and Pediatric Patients

Is routine COVID-19 testing for all patients without COVID-19 symptoms still required on hospital admission and on hospital day 3?

- As of May 6, routine testing of all asymptomatic patients on hospital admission and on hospital day 3 is no longer required.
- See below for specific situations where testing of asymptomatic patients is still needed.
- In addition, providers can still order COVID-19 tests for asymptomatic patients based on clinical discretion.

Which asymptomatic patients still require testing?

- Patients with known, recent (i.e., within the previous 10 days) exposure to another person with confirmed COVID-19.
 - Note: Asymptomatic COVID-19 exposed patients should be tested for COVID-19 on the schedules recommended in the [UCSF Health COVID-19 Quarantine Guidance](#).
 - Even if a patient has had COVID-19 in the last 90 days, they should still be tested for COVID-19 if they have had an exposure or develop symptoms.
- Specific patients may require COVID-19 testing for discontinuation of isolation precautions, including:
 - Select severely immunocompromised patients)
 - To enable earlier discontinuation of isolation for immunocompromised patients and patients who have had severe COVID-19 infection.
 - See [UCSF Guidance for Discontinuation of Isolation for COVID-19](#) for details.
- Some inpatients may also require testing before discharge to congregate living situations

Testing indications	Recommendation
Asymptomatic	No longer required on admission or hospital day #3
Recent exposure to COVID-19	Refer to quarantine guidance
Symptoms consistent with COVID-19	Yes
Repeat testing for discontinuation of Novel Respiratory Isolation for high risk patients	See UCSF guidance for discontinuation of isolation

When should patients be tested for COVID-19?

- Any inpatient who develops signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should be placed into Novel Respiratory Isolation and tested as a symptomatic patient. Patients with COVID-19 exposures should also be tested even if they are asymptomatic as per the [quarantine guidance](#).

What personal protective equipment (PPE) is required when obtaining a COVID-19 specimen for testing?

- N95 respirator plus eye protection (or PAPR), gown, and gloves

What type of test is acceptable?

- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or other nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), including the Abbott ID Now NAAT test.