

Tony Evers
Governor

Andrea Palm
Secretary



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

1 WEST WILSON STREET
PO BOX 2659
MADISON WI 53701-2659

Telephone: 608-266-1251
Fax: 608-267-2832
TTY: 711 or 800-947-3529

This standing prescription order is issued by Dr. Ryan Westergaard, Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist for the Department of Health Services of the State of Wisconsin. This order authorizes trained personnel to collect and send for analysis COVID-19 testing samples, in accordance with the conditions of this order. This order may not be used unless the COVID-19 test is conducted in accordance with the following requirements related to patient eligibility, staff training, and an appropriate plan of care.

Patient Eligibility:

1. Individuals ages 12 months and older who have symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, including any one of the following:
 - a. Fever, defined as a measured temperature greater than 100.4°F
 - b. Subjective fever, for example if a person feels unusually warm to the touch, or reports sensations similar to previous experiences of fever
 - c. Cough
 - d. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - e. Sore throat
 - f. Headache
 - g. Chills or rigors (repetitive shaking chills)
 - h. Myalgia (muscle aches)
 - i. New loss of taste or smell
 - j. Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
 - k. Nasal congestion or runny nose

OR

2. Individuals ages 12 months and older who have been in close contact of a person with COVID-19, regardless of symptoms

OR

3. Individuals ages 12 months and older without symptoms who have been instructed by a public health agency or healthcare provider to get a COVID-19 test as part of a public health investigation, regardless of symptoms. Scenarios in which public health agencies may recommend testing for asymptomatic people include the following:

- a. Investigation of outbreaks, such as multiple cases in a workplace, residential facility, or correctional facility.
- b. Testing all residents and staff in high-risk congregate facilities to prevent or contain outbreaks.
- c. When testing is needed to contain an epidemic in a community with high-level transmission, and resources are sufficient for appropriate follow-up and case investigation, as determined in partnership with state and local health officials.

Staffing Requirements:

A COVID-19 test can be obtained under this order only by personnel who have received appropriate training from DHS or another organization using DHS-approved materials. The training must include (1) appropriate specimen collection methods; (2) data collection and reporting requirements; and (3) patient education about safe isolation, quarantine and follow-up.

Plan of Care Requirements

DHS-supported community testing programs must ensure that the following requirements are met for all individuals receiving a COVID-19 test.

1. Patients must provide verbal consent attesting to their eligibility for testing and understanding of the testing process, which will be documented by Staff.
2. Parental consent must be obtained for patients ages 1-17 years.
3. Patients must be provided a copy of the privacy notice.
4. Testing staff must complete a patient information form and/or enter patient data electronically for documentation in the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS).
5. Data collected from patients must include accurate contact information, including a mobile phone number, to enable successful contact tracing.
6. Patients must be provided educational materials about the meaning of COVID-19 test results, and the importance of isolation while symptomatic.
7. Test results must be reported to the patient within 48 hours of the testing unit's receipt of the test result, with assurance of appropriate follow-up by local public health regarding isolation and contact tracing, if positive.

Instructions for Staff

1. Eligibility Determination and Intake:
 - a. Assess whether the patient is eligible for testing pursuant to the criteria above.
 - b. If the patient is eligible for testing:
 - i. Collect all patient information on the patient intake form, which contains data elements required by DHS for disease reporting purposes.
 - ii. Conduct the verbal consent process with the patient and complete the consent form.
 - c. If the patient is not eligible for testing, explain the reasoning to the patient and direct the patient to exit.
2. Specimen Collection Procedures:
 - a. Ensure appropriate personal protective equipment for the individual administering the test: gloves, gowns, surgical mask (or respirator) and eye protection (goggles or face shield).
 - b. Follow the specimen collection, storage and transport instructions included with the testing supplies.
3. Education and Follow-Up:
 - a. Provide the patient with informational sheets designated by DHS.
 - b. Ensure that the patient has all questions answered.
 - c. Advise the patient that he or she should self-isolate until test results are received.

This Order is effective as of the date below and shall remain effective until withdrawn by Dr. Westergaard, Secretary-designee Palm, or either's designee. Dr. Westergaard retains the right to modify or supplement this Order as needed.



Dr. Ryan Westergaard

December 23, 2020

Date

Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases
Wisconsin Department of Health Services