Pregnant and presenting in labor to with limited PPE at the Immunocompromised person being a known exposure to someone with COVID within 24 hours
If admitted to a healthcare facility, undergoing immunosuppressive monitoring for
Retest close
Patient should remain in Follow situation
Indicates RNA was not detected
Indicates RNA was not detected (if testing, test within 48 hours of procedure)
If any of these describe the patient:
- Pregnant and presenting in labor
- Neonates born to women with confirmed or suspected COVID-19
- Undergoing aerosol-generating procedures with limited PPE at the facility (if testing, test within 48 hours of procedure)
- Undergoing major time-sensitive surgeries (if testing, test within 48 hours of surgery)
- Immunocompromised person being admitted to the hospital
- Undergoing immunosuppressive procedures

Recommendations are based on CDC guidance, VDH Guidance, and Infectious Diseases Society of America Guidelines on the Diagnosis of COVID-19. Molecular testing is still considered the gold standard of SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic testing.

* Asymptomatic individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 or been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 may not need to be tested. See here for more information.
† For known specimen collection locations in Virginia, see here. Serology testing can be used for public health surveillance or research purposes, but is not recommended for diagnosing current COVID-19 infection or making decisions about returning to work. All COVID-19 test results (positive and negative) must be reported to VDH within 24 hours.
‡ If there is a known exposure, test immediately. If negative, retest 5-7 days after last exposure or immediately if symptoms develop. If testing is not readily available for all close contacts, prioritize symptomatic close contacts or those at increased risk for severe COVID-19.
§ VDH recommends individuals quarantine for 14 days after last exposure. If individuals are unable to quarantine for the full 14 days and do not have symptoms, counting the date of last exposure as Day 0, quarantine may end after Day 10 with no test or after Day 7 with a negative PCR or antigen test performed on or after Day 5. Individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 or who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 may not be required to quarantine. In all cases, individuals should continue monitoring for symptoms and follow all recommendations for the full 14-day period after last exposure with some exceptions for fully vaccinated people. Individuals without a known exposure to someone with COVID-19 should isolate until at least 24 hours after symptoms resolve (if symptomatic and regardless of vaccination status) or follow protective measures in place in the community (if asymptomatic).
¶ For COVID-19, VDH defines close contact as being within six feet of someone known to have COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or longer over a 24-hour period, or having exposure to respiratory secretions from an infected person (e.g., being coughed or sneezed on, sharing a drinking glass or utensils, kissing), starting from two days before the person became sick (or two days before specimen collection if asymptomatic) until the person was isolated.
# Asymptomatic individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 may not be required to quarantine. In all cases, individuals should continue monitoring for symptoms and follow all recommendations for the full 14-day period after last exposure with some exceptions for fully vaccinated people. Individuals without a known exposure to someone with COVID-19 should isolate until at least 24 hours after symptoms resolve (if symptomatic and regardless of vaccination status) or follow protective measures in place in the community (if asymptomatic).

VDH COVID-19 MOLECULAR TESTING ALGORITHM
TEST POSITIVE

- Indicates current infection
- Patient should isolate until no longer infectious and close contacts should quarantine
- If admitted to a healthcare facility, use transmission-based precautions
- Follow situation-specific patient management (e.g., delay major surgeries, if possible)

TEST NEGATIVE

- Indicates no antigens were detected; however, amount of antigen in a sample decreases as duration of illness increases, particularly ≥ 5 days after symptom onset.
- Confirm negative antigen result with a molecular test done in a high-complexity CLIA certified laboratory. Patient should isolate while awaiting confirmatory test result.
- If molecular testing is not available, clinical discretion can be used in whether to recommend the patient isolate.
- Patient with positive confirmatory test should isolate until no longer infectious and close contacts should quarantine
- Patient with negative confirmatory test should isolate based on exposure and symptoms.

For healthcare providers to understand who to test and what recommendations to provide based on the results

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Does the patient have symptoms* consistent with COVID-19?

YES

Test using ANTIGEN§. If results are not provided at point-of-care, patient should isolate regardless of vaccination status

TEST POSITIVE

- Indicates presumptive current infection
- Patient should isolate while awaiting confirmatory test result
- Confirm positive result with a molecular test done in a high complexity CLIA certified laboratory
- Patient with positive confirmatory test should isolate until no longer infectious and close contacts should quarantine
- Patient with negative confirmatory test and no known exposures should follow preventative measures

TEST NEGATIVE

- Indicates no antigens were detected
- Patient should remain in quarantine for the full 14 days after last exposure. If individuals are unable to isolate for the full 14 days and do not have symptoms, counting the date of last exposure as Day 0, quarantine may end after Day 10 with no test done.
- Patient with positive confirmatory test should isolate until no longer infectious while awaiting confirmatory test result
- Confirm positive result with a molecular test done in a high complexity CLIA certified laboratory
- Patient with positive confirmatory test should isolate until no longer infectious and close contacts should quarantine
- Patient with negative confirmatory test and no known exposures should follow preventative measures

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NO#

If this describes the patient:
A close contact‡ of a person with lab-confirmed COVID-19 or person at higher risk because of activities where could not distance as needed (e.g., travel, large gathering, crowded indoor setting)

- Indicates no antigens were detected
- Patient should remain in quarantine for the full 14 days after last exposure or immediately if symptoms develop
- Retest close contact 5-7 days after last exposure

See specific setting guidance (e.g., nursing home, assisted living facility, correctional facility)

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TEST POSITIVE

- Indicates current infection
- Patient should isolate until no longer infectious and close contacts should quarantine
- If admitted to a healthcare facility, use transmission-based precautions
- Follow situation-specific patient management (e.g., delay major surgeries, if possible)

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TEST NEGATIVE

- Indicates no antigens were detected
- Patient should remain in quarantine for the full 14 days after last exposure or immediately if symptoms develop
- Retest close contact 5-7 days after last exposure

Any other asymptomatic person who is tested with an ANTIGEN test without close contact‡ to a known COVID-19 case

- Indicates no antigens were detected
- No additional case follow-up necessary
- Reinforce prevention measures

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Recommended are based on CDC guidance, VDH Guidance, Infectious Diseases Society of America Guidelines on the Diagnosis of COVID-19, APHL’s Considerations for Implementation of SARS-CoV-2 Rapid Antigen Testing, current FDA Emergency Use Authorizations for available tests, and FDA FAQ.

* COVID-19 patients may present with a variety of symptoms.
# Asymptomatic individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 or been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 may not need to be tested. See here for more information.
† Point-of-care (POC) tests must be performed at a CLIA-certified laboratory or testing site. More information can be found on the VDH Office of Licensure and Certification website. All results (positive and negative) must be reported to VDH within 24 hours. If there is a known exposure, test immediately. If negative, repeat 7-10 days after last exposure or if symptoms develop. If testing is not readily available for all close contacts, prioritize symptomatic close contacts or those at increased risk for severe COVID-19.
‡ False positives can occur, especially in low prevalence populations.
§ When confirming an antigen test result with a PCR test, the confirmatory PCR test should be performed in a high complexity CLIA certified laboratory. The follow-up specimen should be collected within 24 hours of the original test, if possible, and no more than 48 hours after the antigen test. Specimens collected more than 48 hours after the initial test may lead to discordant results.
¶ VDH recommends individuals quarantine for 14 days after last exposure. If individuals are unable to quarantine for the full 14 days and do not have symptoms, counting the date of last exposure as Day 0, quarantine may end after Day 10 with no test or after Day 7 with a negative PCR or antigen test performed on or after Day 5. Individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 or who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 may not be required to quarantine. In all cases, individuals should continue monitoring for symptoms and follow all recommendations for the full 14-day period after last exposure with some exceptions for fully vaccinated people. Individuals without a known exposure to someone with COVID-19 should isolate until at least 24 hours after symptoms resolve (if symptomatic and regardless of vaccination status) or follow protective measures in place in the community (if asymptomatic).
† For COVID-19, VDH defines close contact as being within six feet of someone known to have COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or longer over a 24-hour period, or having exposure to respiratory secretions from an infected person (e.g., being coughed or sneezed on, sharing a drinking glass or utensils, kissing), starting from two days before the person became sick (or two days before specimen collection if asymptomatic) until the person was isolated.