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.
- If admitted to a healthcare facility, use transmission-based precautions.
- Follow situation-specific patient management (e.g., delay major surgeries, if possible).

**TEST POSITIVE**

- Indicates current infection.
- Patient should isolate until no longer infectious and close contacts should quarantine.
- If molecular testing not available, clinical discretion can be used 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.

**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 laboratory. Patient should isolate while awaiting confirmatory test result.
- If molecular testing not available, clinical discretion can be used 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.

**NO**

- Test using ANTIGEN if molecular testing (e.g., PCR) unavailable.

**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 lab.
- 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 preventive measures.

**TEST NEGATIVE**

- Indicates no antigens were detected.
- Patient should remain in quarantine until it is safe to be around others.
- Perform molecular test if symptoms develop.
- If not fully vaccinated, retest close contact 5-7 days after last exposure.

Recommendations 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.

† 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 the person is not fully vaccinated. If negative, retest 5-7 days after last exposure or immediately if symptoms develop. Test fully vaccinated people 5-7 days after exposure. 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.

¶ People who have been exposed to COVID-19 need to stay home (quarantine) until it is safe to be around others. There are some exceptions (i.e., 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). Close contact management has a different strategy to account for someone with COVID-19. Learn more here. There are some exceptions for students in indoor K-12 settings.