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

YES

Test using ANTIGEN†. If results are not provided at point-of-care, patient should self-isolate.

- Indicates current infection; false positives can occur, especially in low prevalence populations
- Report to VDH Morbidity Report
- Patient should self-isolate until no longer infectious and close contacts should self-quarantine
- 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 no antigens were detected; however, amount of antigen in a sample decreases as duration of illness increases, particularly 5 days after onset of illness.
- Repeat testing with a molecular test, especially in situations where an alternative diagnosis has not been identified, should be performed^.
- If molecular testing is not available, clinical discretion can be used in whether to recommend the patient isolate.
- Recommend self-isolation based on exposure and symptoms§
- Advise patient to follow protective measures in place in the community

TEST NEGATIVE

NO

If this describes the patient:
- A close contact‡ of a person with lab-confirmed COVID-19 Antigen testing is likely not indicated or data are lacking for its use in the general population for VDH to broadly recommend at this time.

- Indicates no antigens were detected
- Negative test does not rule out the potential for future infection
- Patient should remain in quarantine for 14 days after the last date of exposure until indicated
- False negatives can occur; consider repeat testing with a molecular test, if necessary for patient management

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

TEST POSITIVE

- If this describes the patient:
  - A resident or staff in a nursing home
  - See CDC Nursing Home Guidance

TEST NEGATIVE

- If this describes the patient:
  - Any other asymptomatic person
  - Antigen testing is likely not indicated or data are lacking for its use in the general population for VDH to broadly recommend at this time.

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. If there is a known exposure, it is reasonable to test approximately one week after exposure based on the average incubation period and available evidence to date. If testing is not readily available, prioritize symptomatic individuals and asymptomatic close contacts at increased risk for severe COVID-19.

‡ For COVID-19, VDH defines a close contact as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes or who had contact with respiratory secretions with an infectious person, starting from 48 hours before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

§ When confirming an antigen test result with a molecular test, it is important that the time interval between the two sample collections is less than two days, and there have not been any opportunities for new exposures between the two tests.

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Based on September 4, 2020