Test for COVID-19† While test results are pending, patient should self-isolate.

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

If this describes the patient:
- A close contact‡ of a person with lab-confirmed COVID-19

Indicates RNA was not detected⥉
- Follow situation-specific infection prevention measures
- Negative test does not rule out the potential for future infection

Diagnostic testing is likely not indicated
- Advise patient to follow protective measures in place in the community

If this describes the patient:
- A resident or staff of a congregate setting

Refer to VDH Healthcare Personnel Guidance to assess and manage exposed, asymptomatic healthcare personnel

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

Any other asymptomatic person

Testing

YES

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

NO

TEST POSITIVE

TEST NEGATIVE

TEST POSITIVE

TEST NEGATIVE

YES

NO

Recommendations are based on CDC guidance, VDH Guidance, and Infectious Diseases Society of America Guidelines on the Diagnosis of COVID-19.

* COVID-19 patients may present with a variety of symptoms.
† 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.
‡ 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 for all close contacts, prioritize symptomatic close contacts or those at increased risk for severe COVID-19.
§ If the person had a known exposure to someone with COVID-19, the person should continue to self-quarantine until 14 days after the last known exposure. If the person did not have a known exposure to someone with COVID-19, the person should self-isolate until at least 24 hours after symptoms resolve (if symptomatic) or follow protective measures in place in the community (if asymptomatic).
‡‡ 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.
⥉ A negative molecular test result for SARS-CoV-2 means that at the time of collection, RNA from this virus was not present in the specimen above the limit of detection.
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.

- **TEST POSITIVE**
  - ● 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 NEGATIVE**
  - ● 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

- **NO**
  - Test using ANTIGEN if molecular testing unavailable†

- **TEST POSITIVE**
  - ● 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

- **TEST NEGATIVE**
  - See CDC Nursing Home Guidance

- If this describes the patient: A resident or staff in a nursing home

- 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.

^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.

§ If the person had a known exposure to someone with COVID-19, the person should continue to self-quarantine until 14 days after the last known exposure. If the person did not have a known exposure to someone with COVID-19, the person should self-isolate until at least 24 hours after symptoms resolve (if symptomatic) or follow protective measures in place in the community (if asymptomatic).

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.