

ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

Testing Priorities

Updated July 26, 2020

The spread of COVID-19 in Allegheny County has created a higher demand for testing. Given this demand and the capacities of testing centers, the Allegheny County Health Department is asking residents to follow these testing priorities.

The Health Department had previously recommended more widespread testing including for those with possible exposures or returning from travel. It is modifying its testing recommendations at this time to reflect the following:

Priority for testing

1. **Those with symptoms**

This is the most important group to get tested. It is critically important that we have enough tests for anyone having symptoms to get tested.

If you have any symptoms of COVID-19, even mild ones such as a sore throat, get tested. More information about symptoms of COVID-19 is available from the CDC here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>. A map of testing locations in Allegheny County is available at: bit.ly/ACTestingSiteMap.

Stay home while you wait for your test results. Even if your test is negative, continue to isolate for at least 10 days until after you first started to experience symptoms or one day after your symptoms resolved, whichever is longer. False negative tests are still a problem.

2. (a) **Close contacts of a positive case**

The Health Department will call you to indicate you are a close contact of a known positive case of COVID-19, which means you were identified as someone who was within 6 feet, with or without a mask, for at least 15 minutes of a person who recently tested positive. You will be asked by the Health Department to quarantine (stay home) for 14 days from date of exposure and get tested or seek medical care if needed. Continue to quarantine even if you test negative because of the possibility for false negative tests.

(b) **Health care workers or first responders** with a known exposure or high-risk travel

These people work on the frontlines of the pandemic to keep us safe. Please see the Health Department's guidance for travelers for more information about high-risk travel.

https://www.alleghenycounty.us/uploadedFiles/Allegheny_Home/Health_Department/Resources/COVID-19/Docs/0629%20Guidance%20for%20Travelers.pdf

3. **Adults without symptoms but who have had a known exposure or high-risk travel and cannot quarantine for 14 days**

If you absolutely must return to an office or leave the house, then seek testing, but know that a negative test doesn't guarantee that you don't have COVID-19. This is the lowest priority for testing.

Testing sites in Allegheny County currently do not have the capacity to test the following:

1. **Adults without symptoms who are not close contacts and can quarantine for 14 days**
If you are worried that you have been exposed to COVID-19 or have had recently had high-risk travel but are not showing symptoms, please stay home and quarantine for 14 days instead of seeking testing.
2. **Children without symptoms who are not close contacts**
They should stay home for 14 days. If a child develops symptoms, contact your pediatric health care provider for information about testing.
3. **People who are concerned**
People who were recently in a crowd, shopped at a busy store or were in a situation where it was difficult to keep 6 feet from others may be concerned they were exposed to the virus. It is best to monitor your health, and if you begin to experience symptoms, then seek testing. If you think you might have been exposed but you don't know for sure and you have no symptoms, then stay home for 14 days. Quarantining is a great tool to slow the spread of the virus.

If you begin experiencing symptoms at any time – including during a quarantine – stay home and seek testing. The Health Department has additional information about testing on its COVID-19 website at www.alleghenycounty.us/coronavirus.



bit.ly/ACHDcovid-19



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