## PRIORITIES FOR COVID-19 TESTING
(Nucleic Acid or Antigen)

### HIGH PRIORITY
- Hospitalized patients with symptoms
- Health care facility workers, workers in congregate living settings, and first responders with symptoms
- Residents in long-term care facilities or other congregate living settings, including correctional and detention facilities and shelters, with symptoms

### PRIORITY
- Persons with symptoms of potential COVID-19 infection, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting or diarrhea, and/or sore throat
- Persons without symptoms who are prioritized by health departments or clinicians, for any reason, including but not limited to public health monitoring, sentinel surveillance, or screening of other asymptomatic individuals according to state and local plans

## TESTING
Collection of diagnostic respiratory specimens (e.g., nasopharyngeal swab) should be performed in a normal examination room with the door closed.

- The health care provider is responsible for specimen collection, handling and shipping. Please follow CDC guidance.
- High priority specimens should be processed within your health care facility, if available; a commercial laboratory (e.g., LabCorp and Quest), or the Florida Bureau of Public Health Laboratory (BPHL).
  - Before sending specimens to BPHL, contact your local county health department (CHD) Epidemiology Contacts.
- Priority specimens can be processed within your health care facility, if available; or a commercial laboratory (e.g., LabCorp and Quest).
- Health care providers may consult a local CHD for additional guidance as needed.

## ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE
Providers are encouraged to frequently monitor Florida Department of Health and CDC websites for updated guidance on COVID-19.

- [www.flhealth.gov](http://www.flhealth.gov)

Please see the CDC’s Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings.