



WSLH/DHS COVID-19 Testing Criteria

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) set guidelines for specimen types acceptable for testing at Wisconsin public health laboratories. We will test patients that meet one or more of the criteria below. We encourage labs to use in-house testing whenever possible. Patients that do not meet the high priority testing criteria below may still warrant testing at another facility.

Patients tested by WSLH:

- Public Health Investigations as directed by state or local public health
- Hospitalized patient with COVID-19 symptoms
- Patient with COVID-19 symptoms for whom rapid diagnosis is needed to inform infection control practices (e.g. labor and delivery, dialysis, aerosol-generating procedures, etc.)
- Resident of a long-term care facility with COVID-19 symptoms
- Resident in a jail, prison, or other congregate setting with COVID-19 symptoms
- Health care worker or first Responder (e.g. fire, EMS, police) with COVID-19 symptoms
- Essential staff in high consequence congregate settings (e.g. prisons or jails) with COVID-19 symptoms
- Utility workers (water, sewer, gas, electric, power, distribution of raw materials, oil and biofuel refining) with COVID-19 symptoms
- Underserved populations with poor access to testing (e.g., underinsured, patients at Federally Qualified Health Centers, homeless patients, migrant workers, etc.) with COVID-19 symptoms
- Post-mortem testing for a person with COVID-19 symptoms prior to death who died of unknown causes or where results would influence infection control interventions at a facility or inform a public health response.

Note: Please document the specific risk in the “Other” section on the WSLH requisition Form A where you write in your request for COVID-19 testing.

Note: If testing is needed on a patient without these indicators, please consider testing in-house or sending specimens to a reference laboratory. These specimens will not be tested or forwarded by WSLH.

(as of 7/24/20)

