



Who Gets Priority for COVID-19 Testing?

To best serve and protect the lives of the citizens in Madison County, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) (in collaboration with the CDC) are providing guidance to health care facilities to determine who gets tested.

Accordingly, current COVID-19 medical testing protocols, in order, are:

First priority:

- Hospitalized patients; patients 65 and over with symptoms; patients with other health conditions with symptoms
- Health care workers who have COVID-19 symptoms
- Active first responders (including Law Enforcement and EMS) with symptoms

These are processed and tested ASAP in order to inform decisions related to patient care and infection control.

Second priority:

- Individuals, within 14 days of symptom onset that had close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 patient, or who have a history of travel from affected geographic areas.
- Individuals with a past respiratory illness where flu and strep throat testing has come back negative

DPHHS will process all tests that are received by the lab.

Third priority:

- Asymptomatic individuals with confirmed contact with a case but asymptomatic. (Individuals should be in quarantine and testing is not needed.)
- People who do not meet any of the above categories with symptoms.
- Asymptomatic individuals who have traveled from an area of known community spread of COVID-19. (CDC guidelines these individuals should be in quarantine and testing is not needed)
- Any individuals not defined as Priority 1 and 2. Individuals tested in Priority 3 are sent to high throughput, high capacity reference laboratory (LabCorp, Quest, ARUP, etc....) for timely testing.

*The CDC recommends doctors use their judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and whether they should be tested. COVID-19 is a reportable disease, so any doctor who runs a test must report the results to the state health department.

**Please be patient, we're in this together ... for the safety of all,
please call ahead to your health care provider or doctor
before seeking medical treatment for COVID-19.**

