Algorithm For Decision to Test - Ambulatory

**With Close Confirmed Contact***

Fever (100.4F)

OR

Lower Respiratory Symptoms**

How Do I Test?

Rapid Flu → Negative → COVID-19 Test

**Without Close Confirmed Contact***

Fever (100.4F)

AND

Lower Respiratory Symptoms**

AND

Negative Rapid Flu

AND

No other likely diagnosis

* Close Confirmed Contact = Within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes. Not passing contact. Within 14d.

** Respiratory Symptoms = Cough or Shortness of Breath

** Please Note: These are minimum testing thresholds. We fully support NC DHHS guidelines & provider discretion in the decision to test mild otherwise healthy patients to limit COVID-19 spread.

** CDC: 3.9.20: “Clinicians should use their judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested.”

DHHS: 3.23.20: “People with mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19 do NOT need testing and should be instructed to stay at home to recover. Mild symptoms defined as fever and cough without any of the following: shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chest discomfort, altered thinking, cyanosis. Clinicians should use their clinical judgement and prioritize testing of patients with more severe respiratory symptoms; patients for whom clinical management would be different if they were infected with COVID-19; patients in high-risk settings (e.g., congregate care settings, long term care); and health care workers and first responders.”
DHHS Control Measure Guidance

• Patients who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should self-isolate for:
  • At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), and
  • At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

• Patients with clinical COVID-19 infection do NOT need a negative COVID-19 test result to document recovery.

• Close contacts of a person with known or suspected COVID-19 should self-monitor their temperature and symptoms of COVID-19, limit outside interaction as much as possible for 14 days, and self-isolate if they develop symptoms.