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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ISSUES NEW COVID-19 TESTING GUIDANCE



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Tallahassee, Fla. — Today, the Florida Department of Health (Department) issued updated testing guidance and recommendations to maximize the benefits of COVID-19 testing in Florida. A copy of the full COVID-19 testing guidance can be found [here](#).

Overview

Many individuals with COVID-19 may have no symptoms or a mild illness. If you get symptoms, you should avoid contact with others. A positive COVID-19 test result will not change this recommendation.

There are [certain groups who are at an increased risk](#) for severe illness from COVID-19. Severe illness means that an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 may need hospitalization, intensive care, or that they may even die. Groups at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include:

- [Older adults](#), especially those age 65 and older.
- Individuals with [certain medical conditions](#), including cancer, diabetes, chronic lung diseases, heart conditions, and a weakened immune system (immunocompromised).
- [Pregnant or recently pregnant](#) individuals.

Individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 and who are at an [increased risk](#) for severe illness from COVID-19:

- Should get tested for COVID-19 soon after symptom onset.
- Should seek early monoclonal antibody or antiviral drug treatment and seek other medical treatment as necessary.

Individuals with symptoms and who are not at an [increased risk](#) for severe illness from COVID-19:

- Consider getting tested for COVID-19 soon after symptom onset.
- Seek medical treatment only as necessary.

Individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19, but have no symptoms:

- COVID-19 testing is unlikely to have any clinical benefits.

About the Florida Department of Health

The Florida Department of Health, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts.

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