

May 24, 2020

**MEMORANDUM TO: Health System Organizations and Providers**

**SUBJECT: Additional Direction on Testing Strategy**

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In support of our continued focus on reducing the spread of COVID-19, we are pleased to provide direction that is in addition to the testing guidance provided by the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Our approach to testing will continue to evolve, based on evidence from Ontario and other jurisdictions and the public health indicators that we are monitoring closely.

This direction is in addition to the COVID-19 Testing Guidance Update of [May 14, 2020](#).

Effective immediately, testing is available for the following populations:

Symptomatic testing:

1. **All people with at least one symptom** of COVID-19, even for mild symptoms. Please see the “Guidance for All Populations” section of the Testing Guidance Update for details about these symptoms.

Asymptomatic, risk-based testing:

2. **People who are concerned that they have been exposed to COVID-19.** This includes people who are contacts of or may have been exposed to a confirmed or suspected case.
3. **People who are at risk of exposure to COVID-19 through their employment,** including essential workers (e.g., health care workers, grocery store employees, food processing plants).

No Ontarian who is symptomatic or who is concerned they have been exposed to COVID-19 will be declined a test at an Assessment Centre (either through appointment or walk-in, per the processes of each individual Assessment Centre).

As we continue to take an iterative approach to testing, expanded testing will provide valuable information about the spread of the virus in different communities across the province and help us to protect vulnerable populations and all Ontarians.

Thank you for your quick adoption of this new direction. We look forward to seeing our testing volumes increase, identifying cases quickly, and stopping the spread of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

*(original signed by)*

Helen Angus  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Health

Dr. David Williams  
Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Ministry of Health

Matthew Anderson  
President and CEO  
Ontario Health