

ATTENTION

Public Health Alert

DATE: July 10, 2020

SUBJECT: 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
Patient Testing Isolation/Quarantine Guidance & Flyers
Point of Care Testing Reporting Requirements

Patient Testing Isolation/Quarantine Guidance & Flyers

- **While waiting for test results, asymptomatic patients must quarantine and symptomatic patients must be isolated** until they receive further guidance from the health department regarding release.
- Please provide the two attached New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) flyers to all patients undergoing diagnostic COVID-19 testing:
 - COVID-19 Next Steps
 - Please Answer the PhoneAn order form for these flyers (and other materials) is also attached.
- **Contacts to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should already be quarantined but must be quarantined immediately upon testing and until released from isolation or quarantine** by the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDH) or a NYSDOH Contact Tracer as per the attached flyer.
- Please let your patients know that if they test positive for COVID-19 or are identified as a contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, that a WCDH staff or NYSDOH Contact Tracer will be calling them with a caller ID of “**NYS Contact Tracing**” (518-387-9993) and to **please answer the phone**.
- **Anyone entering the state of New York who has traveled from locations that have a significant degree of community-wide spread of COVID-19 must quarantine for a full 14 days**, even if they test negative during that period. The list of locations requiring quarantine can be found at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>.
- Please discourage patients from repeat testing unless there is a clear indication, e.g. new symptoms, repeat exposure, or employer mandated.

Point of Care COVID 19 Testing Reporting

- **All COVID-19 testing must be reported to NYSDOH or WCDH** regardless of whether your office or facility is permitted to operate as a lab within NYS. This includes the more recently available Point of Care (POC) rapid antigen and PCR test results.
- **Report results electronically through the NYSDOH Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS)** (preferred). Call 1-866-325-7743 for directions. Lab reports can also be faxed to 914-813-5182 together with the attached reporting form.
- All negative COVID-19 rapid antigen tests must be confirmed by a conventional COVID-19 RT-PCR test, as rapid antigen tests are highly specific but not very sensitive.
- Rapid COVID-19 antigen tests are primarily useful for symptomatic persons in populations with a high prevalence or probability of COVID-19 infection.

Thank you as always for your support and commitment during this COVID-19 public health emergency.

COVID-19 Testing Next Steps

You are being tested for a virus that causes COVID-19. If you have symptoms of the disease, or if you have been in contact with someone who is infected, you will be asked to stay apart from others. This is also called isolation or quarantine. COVID-19 spreads easily. Staying apart helps stop the disease from spreading.

Symptoms Include:

Fever, cough, difficulty breathing



Other symptoms may include: chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, runny nose, fatigue, wheezing, or new loss of taste or smell.

You Should Be Isolated If:

- You have symptoms and think you may have been infected with the virus.

You Should Be Quarantined If:

- You have been in close contact with someone known to have COVID-19, even if you don't have symptoms. Close contact means sharing the same household, direct physical contact, or being within six feet for more than 10 minutes.

See back for more information.

If You are an Essential Worker:

You can **ONLY** return to work while you wait for your test results if:

- You have your employer's permission to do so.
- You **DO NOT** have symptoms.
- And **you have NOT had contact with a person known to have COVID-19.**

In addition, you must continue to:

- Practice social distancing (stay more than 6 feet from others).
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Wear a mask when less than 6 feet away from others in public.
- Take your temperature and monitor your symptoms daily.



Department
of Health

How to Isolate or Quarantine:



Stay home, except to visit a doctor.



If you must see a doctor, call ahead and avoid using public transport such as subways, buses, taxis.



Don't have visitors.



Separate yourself in a room that is not shared with others. Stay at least 6 feet away from others **at all times**.



Use a separate bathroom, if possible, and disinfect after each use.



Arrange for food, medicine, and other supplies to be left at your door.



Cover your coughs and sneezes. Throw away used tissues. Bag your trash and leave outside your door.



Don't touch pets.



Arrange for others to care for your children, if possible.



Wear a face mask if you must be around others.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds each time, or if unavailable, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Test Results

You will be contacted with your results.

If you test positive on a diagnostic test for the virus, you must continue isolation. You will get a call from a public health representative to identify any contacts you have had.

If you test negative, but you have been in close contact with a person known to have been infected, you must still continue quarantine until 14 days have passed from your last contact with a person known to have COVID-19. Even though you may feel well now, you are at risk of getting the disease and you may get sick. It can take up to 14 days to get the disease.

Your local health department can help you determine when it is safe to stop isolation or quarantine. Find them at www.nysacho.org/directory

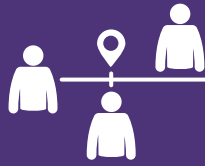
Learn more at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

Support and Job Assistance

Any New Yorker under a mandatory or precautionary order to stay home may be eligible for job-protected sick leave and compensation. Learn more at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/know-your-rights>

If you need help caring for yourself or your children while in isolation or quarantine, call your local health department. Find them at www.nysacho.org/directory

Stay apart now. Be together later.



You're a part of the solution...
now answer the phone!



You've stayed home!



You're wearing masks!



Now, answer the phone!

As we battle coronavirus together, tracing exposures to COVID is important to stop the spread.

The NYS Contact Tracing Program works with confirmed positive COVID-19 people to determine who they have been in contact with. Trained specialists reach out to those contacts about possible exposure. If you have been identified as a contact you will get a call from **“NYS Contact Tracing”** (518-387-9993).

Because the disease can be transmitted without symptoms, notifying people about a possible exposure is critical to stop the spread.

So, if you get a call from **“NYS Contact Tracing”** (518-387-9993) please answer. It is confidential and private.




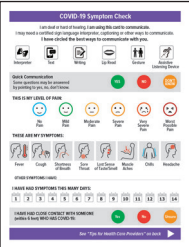

Please Answer the Phone
so we can keep NY moving forward
and stop the spread of COVID-19.

health.ny.gov/coronavirus



ALL orders must include a street address. Bulk orders will not be delivered to post office boxes.

To order, complete this form and submit it by email to: bmcc@health.ny.gov

TITLE/DESCRIPTION	LANGUAGE	PUBLICATION #	QUANTITY
 <p>Protect Yourself from COVID-19 and Stop the Spread of Germs poster</p>	English	13067	15 <input type="checkbox"/> 25 <input type="checkbox"/> 100 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
 <p>Protect Yourself from Coronavirus (COVID-19) WASH YOUR HANDS with soap and water for 20 seconds. ny.gov/coronavirus</p>	English	13068	10 <input type="checkbox"/> 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
 <p>Protect Yourself from Coronavirus (COVID-19) WASH YOUR HANDS with soap and water for 20 seconds. LÁVESE LAS MANOS con agua y jabón por 20 segundos. ny.gov/coronavirus</p>	English/ Spanish	13148	10 <input type="checkbox"/> 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
 <p>COVID-19 Symptom Check card for deaf or hard of hearing</p>	English	13104	15 <input type="checkbox"/> 25 <input type="checkbox"/> 100 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
 <p>Face Masks and Coverings for COVID-19 flyer</p>	English	13105	15 <input type="checkbox"/> 25 <input type="checkbox"/> 100 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
	Spanish	13106	15 <input type="checkbox"/> 25 <input type="checkbox"/> 100 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____



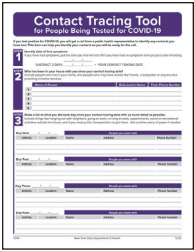
Test Site: Next Steps
flyer

English 13112 15 25 100

 Other _____

Spanish 13113 15 25 100

 Other _____



Contact Tracing Tool

English 13114 15 25 100

 Other _____

Spanish 13115 15 25 100

 Other _____



Contact Tracing –
Answer the Phone
flyer

English 13135 15 25 100

 Other _____

Spanish 13140 15 25 100

 Other _____

MAILING LABEL

NAME	DATE / /
ORGANIZATION (IF APPLICABLE)	
STREET ADDRESS	
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE	