Interim Guidance for Prioritizing Testing of ASYMPTOMATIC PERSONS for COVID-19

Contra Costa Health Services encourages widespread testing of asymptomatic individuals to detect asymptomatic infection and prevent the spread of Covid-19. As testing capacity expands, priority consideration should be given to the following groups of individuals for testing, based on exposure risk and close contact with vulnerable populations.

Surveillance testing applies to persons of unknown or previously negative status – persons who are previously positive should not be re-tested. Asymptomatic surveillance testing does not designate an individual as a PUI (Person Under Investigation) and does not require the same level of PPE as a PUI.

Close Contacts to Persons Who Have Covid-19: Test asymptomatic close contacts to known cases, as they are at high risk for infection.

- Close contacts in the General Community – from household, intimate, social and workplace settings – will be quarantined, tested and isolated if positive
- Close contacts in Sensitive Occupations or Settings (SOS) * have urgent priority for quarantine and testing
- Close contacts in Congregate Living Facilities have urgent priority with testing of all staff and residents upon detection of an outbreak

Testing in Congregate Living Facilities: Test asymptomatic residents and staff in congregate facilities with 10 or more residents, monthly and upon admission.

- Newly Admitted Residents should be tested prior to admission and quarantined for 14 days
- Facility Staff should be screened daily and tested at least monthly
- Residents should be screened daily and offered testing at least monthly

Testing in Healthcare Settings and among First Responders: Consider testing asymptomatic patients and staff in healthcare and among first responders monthly, based on exposure risk.

- Newly Hospitalized Patients should be tested upon admission and then at least monthly
- Pregnant Women and Patients having Elective Surgeries or Procedures should be tested within 72 hours prior to (or upon) presentation to the hospital
- Newborn infants born to mothers with suspected or confirmed Covid-19 should be tested
- Dialysis and Active Chemotherapy Patients receiving treatment in facilities such as dialysis or infusion centers should be tested at least monthly
- Healthcare Workers screen daily and consider testing monthly
- First Responders screen daily and consider testing monthly
**Testing in the Community**: Asymptomatic persons in community settings may also be tested, for prevention, screening and surveillance.

- **Workers in High Contact Public and Work Settings** screen daily and consider testing monthly
- **Persons in the Community** without risk factors may also be tested

* SOS = Sensitive Occupations and Settings

**Sensitive settings include:**
- Skilled nursing facilities
- Elder care facilities
- Jails
- Homeless shelters
- Rehab programs
- Other congregate living settings
- Dialysis centers
- Hospitals

**Sensitive occupations include:**
- Health care workers
- First responders
- Caregivers for the elderly and medically vulnerable
- Workers in other congregate living settings

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