Criteria to Guide Evaluation of PUI for COVID-19

**Revisions were made on March 4, 2020, to reflect the following:**

* Criteria for evaluation of Persons Under Investigation (PUI) were expanded to a wider group of symptomatic patients

As availability of diagnostic testing for COVID-19 increases, clinicians will be able to access laboratory tests for diagnosing COVID-19 through clinical laboratories performing tests authorized by FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). Clinicians will also be able to access laboratory testing through public health laboratories in their jurisdictions.

This expands testing to a wider group of symptomatic patients. 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. Decisions on which patients receive testing should be based on the local epidemiology of COVID-19, as well as the clinical course of illness. Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 have developed fever[1](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html#foot1) and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing). Clinicians are strongly encouraged to test for other causes of respiratory illness, including infections such as influenza.

Epidemiologic factors that may help guide decisions on whether to test include: any persons, including healthcare workers[2](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html#foot2), who have had close contact[3](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html#foot3) with a laboratory-confirmed[4](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html#foot4) COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset, or a history of travel from affected geographic areas[5](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html#foot5) (see below) within 14 days of symptom onset.

International Areas with Sustained (Ongoing) Transmission

*Last updated February 28, 2020*

* China ([Level 3 Travel Health Notice](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/novel-coronavirus-china))
* Iran ([Level 3 Travel Health Notice](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/coronavirus-iran))
* Italy ([Level 3 Travel Health Notice](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/coronavirus-italy))
* Japan ([Level 2 Travel Health Notice](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/coronavirus-japan))
* South Korea ([Level 3 Travel Health Notice](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/coronavirus-south-korea))

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

Dr. Barlow’s Comments: keep in mind community spread has been documented in California, Washington, Oregon, New York, New Jersey and Florida (updated March 5th)