

SRCH COVID-19 Testing Rationale – Who Gets Tested

Week of 3/17/2020-3/20/2020

Rationale for Risk-Based Testing Strategy:

1. SRCH, like the country, has limited access to the viral medium used to test for COVID-19. As of 3/17/2020, SRCH has approximately 200 tests and SRCH completes approximately 15-20 tests daily.
2. After review of the pediatric and adult literature from other countries where the COVID-19 pandemic is ahead of where it is in the US, we are electing to use risk-based testing of patients who are candidates for COVID-19 after positive answers to one or more of the CDC screening questions.
3. From the review of the literature, we identify children's symptoms as UPPER respiratory illness (RI) and 40% of children get ill with COVID-19 from adults tested positive in their household. There is a relatively lower prevalence and milder course of disease in children, 0-18 year of age.
4. From the review of the literature, adults often have LOWER respiratory illness (RI) at presentation.
5. Our highest priority patients for testing include:
 - a. Children with URI symptoms and severe immunocompromise or lung disease.
 - b. Children with URI symptoms and who live with adult family members over the age of 65 years with severe end organ disease or household members who are currently immunocompromised.
 - c. Adults with fever or lower RI symptoms for which there is not an identified cause.
 - d. Adults with fever or lower RI symptoms who are over the age of 65 years with severe end organ disease or household members who are currently immunocompromised.
6. Once we have access to a more reliable number of viral medium, we will review the Testing Strategy to adapt our guidance accordingly.

Among patients who have screened positive to the CDC-based questions, clinicians need to use clinical history taking skills and clinical decision-making skills to identify the very highest risk patients for testing. This requires first a collection of data about the patient, their health history, their acute symptoms, and the health history of the people in their household.

Then, requests for tests will go through Dr. Carla Longchamp for adults 19 years and older.
Requests for tests will go through Deirdre Bernard pearl for adults 17 years and younger.

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Testing Criteria for Pediatrics thru Age 18 years

	Symptoms	Clinical Picture	OFFER TEST
1	URI symptoms	Confirmed test-positive adult in household where child lives	NO-this patient is presumed positive for COVID; advise isolation for 14 days from symptom onset.
2	URI symptoms	Child has severe asthma or other severe lung disease or currently immunocompromised, if not ill...	NO-advise self-quarantine until symptoms resolve.
3	URI symptoms	Adults in household where child lives CURRENTLY HAVE severe asthma or other severe lung disease, severe structural heart disease (valve disease, CHF, bypass, recent MI), end-stage renal disease or on dialysis in or older, OR currently immunocompromised	NO-advise isolation of child from adult household contact until child's symptoms resolve.
<p>Due to severe limitations in COVID testing supplies, we are currently restricting pediatric testing. If you would like to discuss any potential exceptions due to severity of illness or other risk factors, please consult Deirdre Bernard-Pearl, MD at (510) 520-7337. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/pediatric-hcp.html</p>			

Testing Criteria for Adults

	Symptoms	Clinical Picture	OFFER TEST
1	Fever OR Lower RI symptoms	Other more likely clinical explanation for symptoms in patient 64 years or less who is not ill...	NO-COVID is a diagnosis of exclusion. Treat the other more prevalent and obvious disease process.
2	Fever OR Lower RI symptoms	65 years or older with or without chronic severe lung, heart, or kidney disease who is ill or not ill appearing	YES-advise self-quarantine until test results known.
3	Fever OR Lower RI symptoms	Has chronic severe lung disease now with exacerbation of symptoms from baseline	YES-advise self-quarantine until test results known.
4	Fever OR Lower RI symptoms	Confirmed test-positive adult in household where adult lives	YES-advise self-quarantine until test results known.
5	Fever OR cough of unknown origin	Adults with severe asthma or other severe lung disease, severe structural heart disease (valve disease, CHF, bypass, recent MI), end-stage renal disease or on dialysis, or currently immunocompromised	YES-advise self-quarantine until test results known.
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Lower Respiratory Illness (RI) symptoms include: cough, SOB