



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

June 15, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to provide updated information about COVID-19 testing, as directed in the [Amended Directive and Order Regarding Various Healthcare Matters](#) issued on June 12, 2020.

The capacity and availability of COVID-19 testing in Maryland has increased significantly over the past three months; therefore, the following populations should now be prioritized for testing:

- Any symptomatic individual
- Asymptomatic individuals where COVID-19 exposure may be possible, including
 - contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases
 - residents and staff of congregate living settings and long-term care facilities
 - healthcare workers and first responders
 - patients, especially high-risk unstable patients, whose care would be altered by a diagnosis of COVID-19
 - individuals employed in close contact settings
 - individuals previously in a large gathering
 - individuals directed to be tested by the Maryland Department of Health associated with a cluster, outbreak or contact investigation

In addition, retesting or serial testing of individuals should be conducted based on clinical or epidemiological indications or as directed by the Department or a local health department.

Healthcare providers should follow the [CDC's guidelines for collecting, handling, and testing clinical specimens](#) from persons for COVID-19, including [recommended infection prevention and control practices](#), and use of recommended personal protective equipment (PPE).

All healthcare providers, facilities, and entities that offer community COVID-19 testing shall make that testing available to any person presenting at the testing site without regard to that person's ability to pay, type of health insurance, or participation in any particular provider network.

For questions, please call your local health department or the Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau at 410-767-6700 or 410-795-7365 after hours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monique Duwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Monique" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Duwell".

Monique Duwell, MD, MPH
Chief, Center for Infectious Disease Surveillance and Outbreak Response

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ruth Thompson". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Ruth" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Thompson".

Ruth Thompson
Deputy Director, Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau