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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ISSUES NEW COVID-19 TESTING GUIDANCE



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• **TALLAHASSEE**—Today, the Florida Department of Health (Department) issued updated testing guidance and recommendations to maximize the benefits of COVID-19 testing in Florida. A copy of the full COVID-19 testing guidance can be found [here](#).

• **Overview**

• Many individuals with COVID-19 may have no symptoms or a mild illness. If you get symptoms, you should avoid contact with others. A positive COVID-19 test result will not change this recommendation.

• There are [certain groups who are at an increased risk](#) for severe illness from COVID-19. Severe illness means that an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 may need hospitalization, intensive care, or that they may even die. Groups at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include:

- [Older adults](#), especially those age 65 and older.

- Individuals with [certain medical conditions](#), including cancer, diabetes, chronic lung diseases, heart conditions, and a weakened immune system (immunocompromised).
- [Pregnant or recently pregnant](#)
- **Individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 and who are at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19:**
 - Should get tested for COVID-19 soon after symptom onset.
 - Should seek early monoclonal antibody or antiviral drug treatment and seek other medical treatment as necessary.
- **Individuals with symptoms and who are not at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19:**
 - Consider getting tested for COVID-19 soon after symptom onset.
 - Seek medical treatment only as necessary.
- **Individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19, but have no symptoms:**
 - COVID-19 testing is unlikely to have any clinical benefits.
- **About the Florida Department of Health**
 - The Florida Department of Health, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.
 - Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#). For more information, please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.