



IMPORTANT COVID-19 TESTING POLICIES

The safety of our patients, visitors, staff and community continues to be our top priority. With the national onset of COVID-19, we are working diligently to ensure we protect everyone who enters our facilities and are implementing precautionary measures, as suggested by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Please be mindful that patients are required to meet specific qualifications in order to receive a Coronavirus (COVID-19) test.

Please do not send your employees to our facilities requiring a COVID-19 test before they can return to work. For individuals who are tested, these tests do not act similarly to flu and strep tests, as they are not readily available or rapid. We assure you that our team will follow the proper protocols and provide appropriate care to treat their symptoms.

Some criteria required by Mississippi Department of Health for COVID-19 testing:

Priority patients for COVID-19 testing are those with fever (≥ 100.4 F) and acute respiratory illness (e.g. cough, difficulty breathing) who also meet the following criteria:

- Hospitalized patients who have signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19.
- Symptomatic healthcare personnel, especially with a history of travel to an affected country (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>) or known contact to a suspected or confirmed cases in the 14 days prior to symptom onset.
- Other symptomatic individuals (fever of ≥ 100.4 F and acute respiratory illness), especially in individuals at higher risk for poor outcomes (older adults and/or underlying chronic disease).

Following criteria recommended by the CDC helps us conserve our limited tests. Self-isolation is the most effective method of preventing the spread of the virus.

Work excuses are not available for employees who call our COVID-19 hotline and are advised to quarantine themselves based on their symptoms. At this time, the CDC is recommending that employers do not require a healthcare provider's note for employees who are sick with acute respiratory illness to validate their illness or return to work. Healthcare provider offices and medical facilities may be extremely busy and not able to provide such documentation in a timely way.

Thank you for your cooperation at this time and for your continued efforts keeping your staff and employees healthy and well.