Criteria to Guide Evaluation and Laboratory Testing for COVID-19 at the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Laboratory*

Clinicians considering testing of persons with possible COVID-19 should contact the ODH Bureau of Infectious Diseases at 614-995-5599 to coordinate testing through the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Laboratory for the two priorities listed below; please use COVID-19 diagnostic testing authorized by the Food and Drug Administration under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) through clinical laboratories for individuals not included in priorities 1 and 2 for ODH Lab testing.

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. Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 have developed fever and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing).

Priorities for testing at the ODH Laboratory include:

PRIORITY 1: To ensure optimal care options for all hospitalized patients, lessen the risk of nosocomial infections, and maintain the integrity of the healthcare system

- Hospitalized patients
- Symptomatic healthcare workers

PRIORITY 2: To ensure those who are at highest risk of complication of infection are rapidly identified and appropriately triaged

- Patients in long-term care facilities with symptoms
- First responders with symptoms
- Patients 65 years of age and older with symptoms and testing referred from a hospital, including ED
- Patients with underlying conditions with symptoms and testing referred from a hospital, including ED

*This testing guidance is subject to further revision