

COVID-19: COVID Testing Q & A

GUTTENBERG, IA November 8, 2020 – There have been several questions around COVID-19 testing at GMHC. Following are answers to some of the most common questions.

1. Who can be tested for COVID at Cornerstone Family Practice?

A: Any established patient with two or more COVID symptoms that they have had for at least 48 hours.

2. What if I am not a patient of CFP but live in the community?

A: At this time, we continue to have a shortage of PPE and testing supplies. We have had to make the difficult decision to only test individuals that meet the above criteria.

3. What if I have been exposed to someone and just want to know if I have COVID?

A: Medical facilities are not testing individuals without symptoms. We are reserving our resources to identify patients that are ill with COVID and may need ongoing treatment. Test Iowa sites were established as a means to test other individuals.

4. Why do I need a clinic visit if I just want a COVID test?

A: We feel very strongly that anyone with COVID symptoms should see a medical provider at the same practice where their primary care provider is located. This allows a hands and eyes on patient assessment as well as access to their medical record to address any risk areas.

5. How accurate is the COVID test being conducted at CFP and GMHC?

A: For a patient that is symptomatic long enough to have developed a viral load that can be detected by the test, it is very reliable. However, we have seen a few individuals that test negative but have symptoms. Our Providers are then able to give guidance on next steps to keep those patients and their families safe.

6. If I am not eligible for the rapid test at CFP, am I eligible for a send-out test so that I can be tested locally?

A: No, the send out tests to the State Hygienic Lab also require that the patient have COVID symptoms.