WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVID-19 TESTING

1. HOW DOES TESTING HAPPEN?
   People seeking testing first contact their health care provider. Currently, people with COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath are prioritized.

   **VISIT WITH PROVIDER**
   People are assessed in person or by phone by their provider for COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath). Based on the Washington State Department of Health’s testing guidance, the health care provider determines if testing is warranted.

   **Nasal Swab Is Taken**
   If the provider determines that COVID-19 testing is needed, the provider will take a swab of the nose or guide the patient on how to self-swab.

   **Swab Is Sent To Labs**
   The testing kit with the swab is then sent off to the lab to be evaluated.

   **Lab Result Is Returned To Patient**
   If the test result is positive, test results are reported to Public Health — Seattle & King County.
The three main components that are necessary for testing for COVID-19: healthcare providers with personal protective equipment (PPE), test kits, and lab capacity.

**WHAT GOES INTO TESTING?**

**Test kits**
Test kits include swabs for collecting specimens, a tube with transport media, and a package to return it in.

**Personal protective equipment (PPE)**
Personal protective equipment is worn by healthcare workers to keep them safe when testing patients for COVID-19. This includes masks, goggles, gowns & gloves.

**Lab capacity**
Lab capacity is necessary for running the tests on the specimens. Nearly all lab capacity in King County is from private labs, the University of Washington lab, and other healthcare system labs. Lab capacity continues to grow.

Short supplies of testing kits and PPE has limited testing availability.
The three main components that are necessary for testing for COVID-19: healthcare providers with personal protective equipment (PPE), test kits, and lab capacity.

**WHAT GOES INTO TESTING?**

First, testing is only recommended for those that are symptomatic. If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, how you get a test depends on who you are. Priority groups, such as first responders, healthcare workers, and those living in congregate settings like shelters and long term care facilities, have different avenues for accessing testing than the general public due to their heightened risk.

**HOW DO I GET A TEST?**

**FIRST RESPONDERS**

First responders, such as police officers and emergency medical service personnel, should talk to their health officer if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Special arrangements will be made for rapid testing so that first responders can get back to the workforce promptly.

**HEALTHCARE WORKERS**

Healthcare workers should talk to employee health services or their health care provider if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, who should make testing available for them.

**PEOPLE WHO LIVE OR WORK IN CONGREGATE SETTINGS**

People living or working in high-risk congregate settings, such as long term care facilities or homeless services, have dedicated health services that can help persons experiencing COVID-19 symptoms access safe testing and support.

**PEOPLE WHO ARE SICK**

If you do not fall into one of these groups and are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, please call your healthcare provider. Even if your healthcare provider isn’t doing testing, they can discuss your symptoms with you and help you find testing and care.
Public Health — Seattle & King County is not a primary provider of testing. We promote equitable access and facilitate providing testing resources to high priority audiences. Most of these tests are conducted through employers and private providers.

**WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH’S ROLE?**

- **FIRST RESPONDERS**
  - EMS
  - Firefighters
  - Police

- **HEALTHCARE WORKERS**
  - Hospitals
  - Corrections
  - Detention centers
  - Clinics
  - Long-term care facilities

- **PEOPLE LIVING OR WORKING IN CONGREGATE SETTINGS**
  - Shelters
  - Corrections
  - Long-term care facilities

This infographic was developed on April 7, 2020. Information is subject to change. For more information, visit our COVID webpage: www.kingcounty.gov/covid.