



PHG COVID-19 Update: March 24

Dear Valued Providers

We want to be a resource to our Premier Health Group Independent providers. That is why we will be sending out a daily COVID-19 email to provide updates.

In addition, we have created a resources page on the [PHG website](#). Please bookmark this page as it will be updated regularly with clinical updates and helpful resources.

Please feel free to contact us directly at **(937) 499-7441** with any questions you might have or if you would like to speak with our Medical Director, Scott Swabb, DO.

Yours sincerely,

Renee George
President
Premier Health Group

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Scenario-Based Assessment and Triage of Staff Exposed to SARS-CoV-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has given guidance on level of exposure for healthcare settings. The exposure categories are low, medium, and high.

- **Indirect contact/low-risk:** an employee visited a school, medical facility, or other location in which a suspected or positive COVID-19 case has been found OR employees family member may have been exposed to COVID-19 but is asymptomatic
- **Close contact/medium-high-risk:** being within 6 feet (2 meters) of a person with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time (caring for or visiting a patient, sitting within 6 feet of a patient in a healthcare waiting area or room) or having unprotected direct contact with secretions or excretions of the patient (being coughed on, touching tissues with a bare hand)

Employees with close contact to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 while NOT wearing adequate PPE should report the situation to Infection Control and Employee Health. [Find our more.](#)

Recommended evaluation of patients with acute lower respiratory illness

This guide is established to help navigate the initial evaluations of patients who present with a primary complaint of Acute Undifferentiated Respiratory Illness. It is intended as a guide and should not replace clinical judgement as appropriate. Presently, testing for SARS Cov 2, the virus that causes COVID-19 is only recommended by the Ohio Department of Health for Tier 1,2 and 3 patients as noted below. This algorithm may change based on newer recommendation and updates may follow. Because over 20% of COVID-19 patients may have coinfection with other viral infections, Viral PCR is NOT recommended for ALL patients being evaluated with Acute Respiratory Illnesses unless clinically indicated for the individual patient. [Click here to view the algorithm and testing Tier information.](#)



Opportunities to Assist (For Non-Premier Health Employed Providers)

Planning is underway for a potential surge in cases within the community. If you are interested in assisting in the event of a surge, please send an email to PHG@PremierHealth.com and list any special qualifications you have that may be of interest. Please note that you will need to confirm your medical malpractice insurance will cover you if services are provided.

COVID-19 Collection Site

To assist you in assessing which patients are appropriate for screening, Premier Health has opened a command center hotline number for the independent / PHG providers in the community. **Please call 937-208-5628 and press option 4 to talk with the command center team about confirming your patient should be sent to the collection site.**