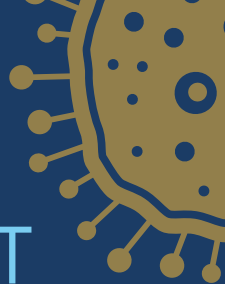# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
# COVID-19 TESTING

## 1 HOW DOES TESTING HAPPEN?

If you have COVID-19 symptoms or had close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you should seek a test. People seeking testing first contact their health care provider.

### VISIT WITH PROVIDER

People are assessed in person or by phone by their provider for COVID-19 symptoms. 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.
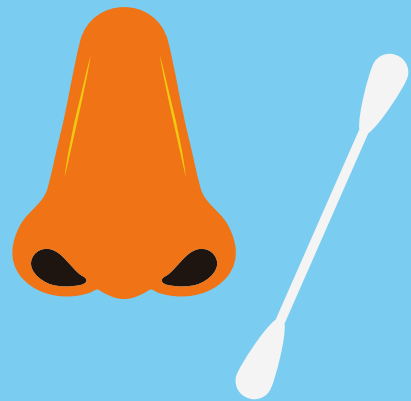
### SWAB IS SENT TO LABS

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, tests results are reported to Public Health — Seattle & King County.
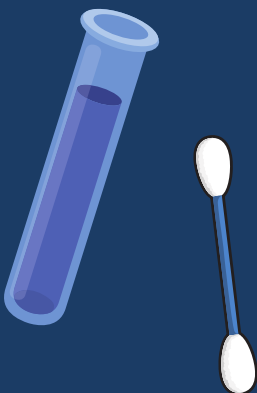
# 2 WHAT GOES INTO TESTING?

The three main components that are necessary for testing for COVID-19: healthcare providers with personal protective equipment (PPE), test kits, and lab capacity.
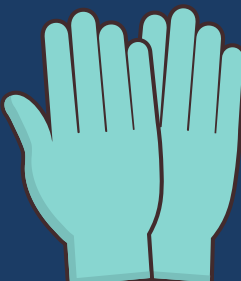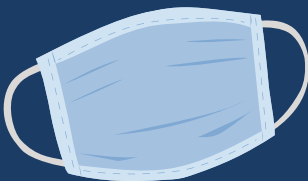
## Test kits*

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.*

# 3 HOW DO I GET A TEST?

Anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms or close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should be tested right away. 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.

## 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.
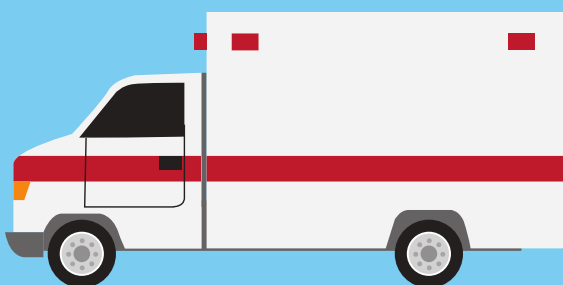
## HEALTHCARE WORKERS

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 or had close contact with someone who has 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.

# 4

## WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH'S ROLE?

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.

**FIRST RESPONDERS**

**HEALTHCARE WORKERS**
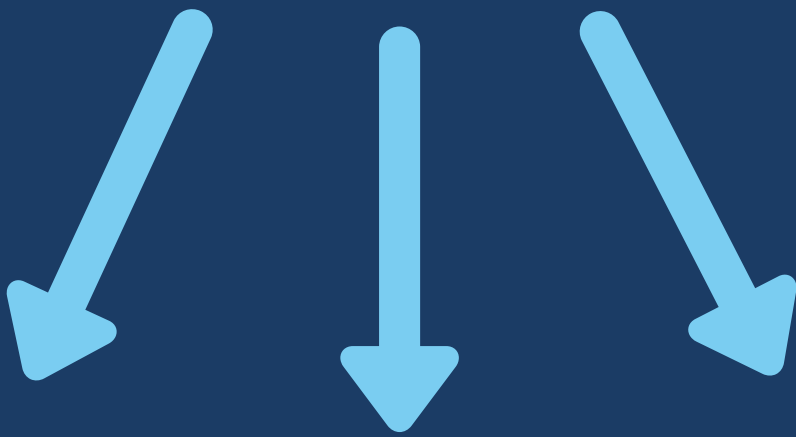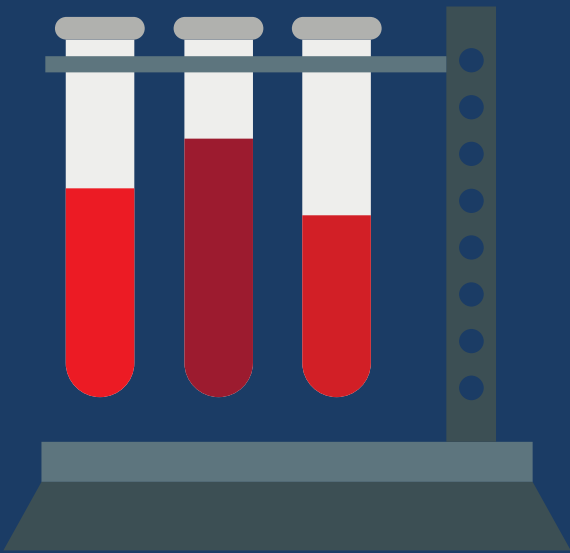
**PEOPLE LIVING OR WORKING IN CONGREGATE SETTINGS**

EMS

Firefighters

Police

Hospitals

Corrections

Detention centers

Clinics

Long-term care

facilities

Shelters

Corrections

Long-term care

facilities

This infographic was revised on May 12, 2020. Information is subject to change. For more information, visit our COVID webpage: www.kingcounty.gov/covid.

**Public Health**
Seattle & King County