

## On March 16, 2020, Gibson Diagnostic introduced testing for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus that causes COVID-19.

Our continuous communication and engagement with federal and state authorities, health officials and other healthcare leaders is a key priority for the Gibson team in this time of uncertainty. Our team has the state-of-the-art testing capacity to make COVID-19 testing available to patients who meet the CDC criteria and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) guidance.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF COVID-19



Transmitted via respiratory droplets similar to influenza virus.



Has an incubation period of 2-14 days following exposure with most showing symptoms in 5 days.



Manifestations range from mild disease with fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, and pulmonary infiltrates to critical illness with respiratory failure, shock, or multi-organ failure.

Gibson uses the FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) approved CDC 2019-Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time Reverse Transcriptase (RT)-PCR Diagnostic Panel for the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) test. This specific test is intended to detect the presumptive qualitative of 2019-nCoV in upper and lower respiratory specimens (such as nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swabs, sputum, lower respiratory tract aspirates, bronchoalveolar lavage, and nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate or nasal aspirate).

The CDC's clinical criteria for COVID-19 testing is frequently updated as additional information becomes available. The most recent information on COVID-19 can be found at: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html)

The current CDC criteria for laboratory testing includes:

"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. Decisions on which patients receive testing should be based on the local epidemiology of COVID-19, as well as the clinical course of illness. Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 have developed fever and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing). Clinicians are strongly encouraged to test for other causes of respiratory illness, including infections such as influenza.

Epidemiologic factors that may help guide decisions on whether to test include: any persons, including healthcare workers, who have had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset, or a history of travel from affected geographic areas within 14 days of symptom onset."

Test results from SARS-CoV-2 by RT-PCR test must be accompanied by the following information pertaining to the EUA, which is required to be made available to healthcare providers and patients.

**Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers:** [www.fda.gov/media/134920/download](http://www.fda.gov/media/134920/download)

**Fact Sheet for Patients:** [www.fda.gov/media/134921/download](http://www.fda.gov/media/134921/download)

**Please contact Gibson Diagnostic should you have any questions regarding testing.**

For more information about COVID-19, including symptoms, prevention tips and other resources, please visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov), [dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus) or call the Department of State Health Services at 2-1-1 and select Option 6.



## VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- Individuals who meet the following criteria are considered vulnerable populations for contracting COVID-19. These individuals should avoid large crowds and practice strict social distancing:
  - Individuals age 60 and older.
  - Individuals with serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes or lung disease.
- Everyone should take steps to protect vulnerable populations from COVID-19 and other illnesses by understanding the risks and practicing good hygiene and hand washing habits, staying home when sick and disinfecting surfaces regularly.



## LOW RISK

### Self-Monitor

- Those that fall into the Low Risk category are free to move about the community but should self-monitor, avoid large crowds, practice social distancing, avoid vulnerable populations and avoid public transportation if they meet the following criteria but have no COVID-19 symptoms:
  - Traveled from any other area in the United States or internationally where the extent of COVID-19 spread is unknown.
  - Been in the same indoor environment as a person with COVID-19 for a limited amount of time and without close contact.



## MEDIUM RISK

### Advised Voluntary Quarantine

- The Department of Public Health advises a Voluntary Quarantine to individuals and ask that they self-monitor if they meet one or more of the following criteria:
  - Traveled from areas with sustained community transmission and have no symptoms.
  - Have symptoms of COVID-19 but have not traveled to areas with sustained community transmission.
  - Have a COVID-19 test pending or live with a person who has a COVID-19 test pending.



## HIGH RISK

### Quarantine Order

- The Department of Public Health will issue a Quarantine Order to individuals if they meet one or more of the following criteria:
  - Have a positive COVID-19 test.
  - Have a known close contact to someone with a positive COVID-19 test.
  - Those under an Advised Voluntary Quarantine with further evidence of infection.