

Guidance for Organizational Screening and Testing for non-healthcare facilities

Clinical information provided by Huggins Hospital's Chief Medical Officer John Boornazian, MD

As COVID-19 spreads through our local communities, it is important for all organizations – not only those in healthcare operations – to take extra precautions to keep their employees and the community safe.

Huggins Hospital's recommendation is to follow the [OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#).

Testing Information

Current COVID-19 testing can take approximately four days before results are received. This timeframe changes often but is usually no less than three days. Testing does not detect incubating illness that may become an active illness up to 14 days later. At this time, testing asymptomatic workers (those with no symptoms of COVID-19) is not recommended by the State of NH. Testing asymptomatic people can be harmful if it creates a false sense of security and if the OSHA guidelines mentioned above are not in place or followed strictly.

Given the recommendations and the recognition that COVID-19 testing only detects patients with an active disease at the time of the test, Huggins Hospital recommends daily entrance screenings and the OSHA guidelines as preventative tools.

If the testing guidance changes and more rapid testing is available in our area, there may be the opportunity to change the process and test more proactively. We are hopeful this will happen soon and will be happy to work with any organization directly regarding testing.

If any person has symptoms of COVID-19, they can call Huggins Hospital's COVID-19 Hotline at (603) 569-7558 to be screened and scheduled for testing.

Screening Information

Huggins Hospital has entrance screening algorithms used at the hospital and are able to share those with any organization in need of guidance.

Contact

Please reach out to Huggins Hospital if you are in need of more information regarding screening or testing for COVID-19. Please e-mail us at AskHuggins@hugginshospital.org.