

## IPHC COVID Policy: updated Jan 2022

### **Who should be tested for COVID-19?**

- Your child was in close contact with a person that has confirmed COVID
- Your child has symptoms of COVID – it is important to remember that children often present differently with COVID than adults. The symptoms are often mild and similar to other viral illnesses or the “common cold.”
  - o These symptoms include, but are not limited to:
    - Fever >100.4
    - Cough, congestion, runny nose, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath
    - Loss of taste and/or smell
    - Headache and/or body aches
    - Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
    - Sore throat
- Your child needs to be tested based on recommendations from the public health department or for situations like travel or upcoming surgery

### **How do I get a COVID-19 test from a Nurse Practitioner from IPhC?**

- IPhC *requires* that all patients needing a COVID test through CHCO have a telehealth appointment performed prior to ordering the swab. This allows your NP to lay eyes on your child to ensure that they do not need to be seen in person and allows your NP to easily track the order for prompt notification of results to the family.
- A telehealth visit is billed the same way as a sick in-office visit. Please keep this in mind if you are self-pay or in a health share.

### **Can my child come in to the office to get tested for COVID-19?**

IPHC does not have testing on site. Your NP will order (if deemed necessary by your provider) a COVID test to be done at the drive thru site through Children’s Hospital Colorado.

- o There are 2 different kinds of swabs. Your NP will determine which is best for your child.
  - PCR → this is the gold standard swab
  - Saliva → this test can only be used if patient is above the age of 4 AND is symptomatic with COVID like symptoms. A child that is exposed or asymptomatic cannot utilize the saliva test
- o The phone # to call CHCO to schedule is 720-777-0001. You cannot call to schedule without an order from your NP.

### **Why can’t my child get a rapid swab?**

Rapid swabs for COVID-19 are not the gold standard for testing and there is not good documentation of their accuracy in children.

### **My child had an exposure, when should I get them tested? (UPDATED Jan 2022)**

For most up to date guidelines on testing [click here](#). Please pay special attention to guidance on isolation and quarantine based on vaccinated or non-vaccinated status.

IPHC recommends the child be tested according to CDC guidelines (and based on symptoms)

**When will I get results?**

Testing done at Children's Hospital Colorado usually comes back within 24-48 hours. Please kindly message your NP through the patient portal if you have not heard about your child's COVID results after 48 hours. You can also sign up for a MyChart activation with Children's and see results yourself.

**Can I bring my child in to the office if they have tested negative for COVID-19?**

Yes, but there are some situations where the child may not be able to safely come in to the office – such as: recent travel via airplane, other sick family members in the home with COVID like symptoms that have not been tested yet, negative results provided are from a rapid test, etc. Your NP will determine if the child can come in to the office once the child has tested negative. IPHC is prioritizing maintaining health of patients, families, and staff during this pandemic.

**How long should my child quarantine for?**

Since guidelines are frequently updated, see the most recent results by [clicking here](#)

**Is there a charge for COVID testing?**

Unless you go to a known free site for COVID testing, there may be a charge. Please check with the lab and your insurance company as they set the fees for COVID testing. Your NP is unable to determine the cost of COVID testing.

**Can I get a note for school after my child has tested negative?**

Please message your NP via the portal if you are needing a note and they will determine if your child can safely go back to daycare or school. Your NP cannot write a note saying your child can safely go back if the negative test provided is a rapid test.

**Can I get my child tested for antibodies?**

Your NP will determine if antibody testing is appropriate for your child. It is the parent's responsibility to speak with their insurance company regarding costs of antibody testing.

**Can both parents come in to the office for well visits if both are vaccinated against COVID-19?**

Yes, but you will need confirmation from your NP. Please message your NP through the portal to determine if both parents can come for the child's well visit.

**Can my child get vaccinated for COVID-19?**

IPHC does not have any COVID vaccinations on site. Anyone over the age of 12 can get vaccinated against COVID-19 in Colorado. Please message your NP via the portal if your child is over the age of 12 and you are interested in the COVID vaccine. Your NP can help facilitate ordering and scheduling your child's vaccine, which is done at Children's Hospital Colorado and various other facilities.