

# Memo

**To:** Physicians and Advanced Practice Providers

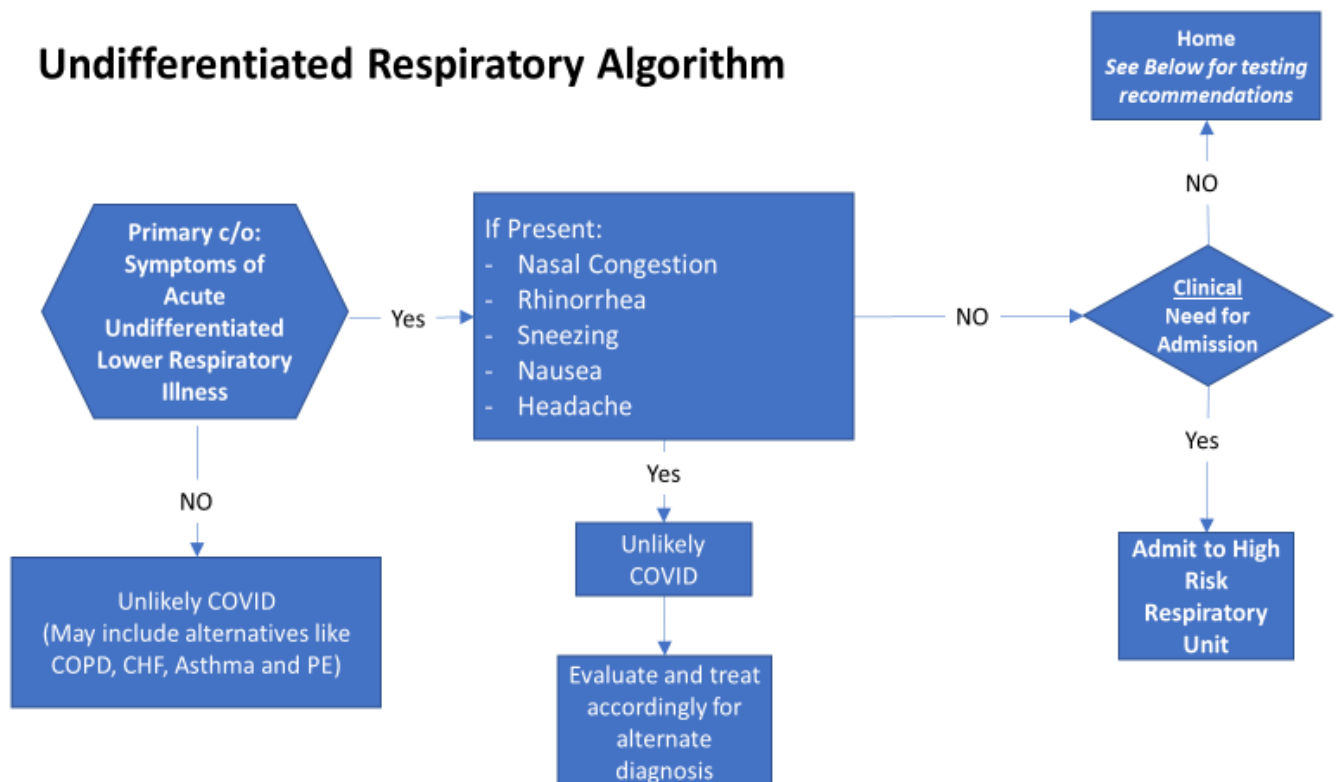
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**Date:** March 21, 2020

**RE:** 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. Please refer to the documents attached to this update for more detailed information as well as tips for how to order testing. 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.

## Undifferentiated Respiratory Algorithm



ODH, in collaboration with community partners, has developed a tier-based testing strategy for individuals with suspected COVID-19:

Testing Tier	Description
Tier 1	Inpatients at hospitals and other healthcare facilities, including long-term care, with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19
Tier 2	Healthcare workers at Tier 1 institutions with symptoms and all individuals in public safety occupations
Tier 3	Individuals with mild-to-moderate symptoms who are high risk — elderly, and those with serious medical problems
Tier 4	Individuals with mild/moderate symptoms and without risk factors for adverse outcomes – <b>testing not currently recommended</b>
Tier 5	Asymptomatic individuals – <b>testing not currently recommended</b>

At the present time, **ODH advises that only individuals in Tiers 1, 2, and 3 be tested for COVID-19.** Based upon availability of testing materials, these recommendations will be modified.

For Tier, 3 medical problems that MAY be considered include but are not limited to: Age >65, diabetes, heart disease, advanced chronic kidney disease, chronic lung disease, active cancer on chemotherapy or receiving immunosuppressive medications. Testing in this group should only be based on clinical suspicion and judgement.