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Revised testing criteria makes more people eligible for COVID-19 testing

Spokane, Wash. – Local healthcare providers are using revised criteria to make testing more available to patients experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms or who were in close contact with a confirmed case. Washington State Department of Health revised the guidelines based on increased availability of testing supplies and additional information about symptoms of the virus.

The revised guidance encourages testing of all patients who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, regardless of age or health status, including:

- Cough, or
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

OR at least two of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Individuals who have been informed that they were in close contact with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 are also encouraged to get tested, regardless of whether they have symptoms or not.

Testing of all patients with symptoms consistent with COVID-19, and close contacts of those who are confirmed positive, are critical to suppressing the spread of the disease and reopening the business community.

People meeting the revised criteria should contact their regular health care provider to be evaluated and tested, if needed. CHAS Health and the Community COVID-19 Screening Site at Spokane County Fair and Expo Center will evaluate and test individuals who do not have a regular healthcare provider or insurance. A complete list and map of COVID-19 screening locations in Spokane County is available at <https://srhd.org/>

For additional official information about the screening clinic and the Inland COVID Response, refer to spokanecovidresponse.org

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