



## Fond du Lac County Health Department

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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Fond du Lac County  
Health Department**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2020

Kim Mueller, Public Health Officer

### Expanded COVID-19 testing

For Fond du Lac County residents.

As COVID-19 testing becomes more available and aligning with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recommendations, providers at Agnesian HealthCare, a member of SSM Health, are expanding testing to patients experiencing minor COVID-19 symptoms. This increase in testing will help clinicians and public health understand how COVID-19 is circulating in our community.

Through these recommendations, the DHS is trying to accomplish the following:

- Hoping to prevent future waves of infection, widespread testing, coupled with high-intensity contact tracing, isolation and quarantine will require close partnership between clinicians and local public health.
- Health care providers are encouraged to obtain COVID-19 testing for all who are symptomatic, even patients with mild symptoms. This serves an important public health purpose in the next phase of Wisconsin's COVID-19 response, which will require aggressive efforts for finding and isolating cases in the community.
- Current volume of COVID-19 testing being done in Wisconsin is substantially lower than the overall capacity, which likely reflects prioritization of testing for hospitalized patients during the early phase of the epidemic.
- Overall laboratory capacity can support testing of many patients in outpatient settings who have symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, and there are important public health reasons for doing so.

Fond du Lac County residents experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should call (844) 225-0147 to determine next steps. In addition, SSM Health is offering a FREE virtual screening tool at [ssmhealth.com/Covid19](http://ssmhealth.com/Covid19). This will involve an online screening survey, which will be reviewed by a provider who will make a testing decision or other diagnosis and provide a course of treatment. If a test is needed, they will direct individuals to the nearest testing location.

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