



**CITY OF MEMPHIS  
SHELBY COUNTY  
JOINT COVID TASK FORCE**



## **COVID-19 Testing for Asymptomatic Healthcare Workers and First Responders**

**Guidance Document - April 6, 2020  
From COVID-19 Memphis and Shelby County Task Force**

As evidence accumulates on the impact of asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19, greater precautions are needed to protect healthcare workers, patients, and families of healthcare workers.

For this reason, the Task Force suggests that all high-risk frontline healthcare workers such as EMS's, ER doctors, nurses, pulmonologists, other specialists, ICU nurses be tested for COVID-19. Such testing will ensure that the workers do not pass on infection asymptotically to their co-workers, patients, and family. At present, it is unclear how often the test may need to be repeated, yet this will be dependent on the availability of the test, cost, epidemiology of the disease, and acceptance of health workers.

In addition, nursing homes and assisted living facility's frontline workers such as nurse aides, nurses and providers should be tested for COVID-19. This will ensure the utmost precautions for preventing local outbreaks.

These precautions are a supplement to good hand hygiene and regular masking by health workers during community transmission of COVID-19. The definition of high-risk frontline health workers and first responders will vary with organizations and best judgment is suggested. Also, testing for a greater number of persons should be scaled up based on availability and cost considerations. The cost of asymptomatic testing is generally covered by health insurance providers if a licensed healthcare provider orders the test. The City or County has contact with private providers who can order tests.