

COVID Testing for Asymptomatic, Essential Workers

On July 17, 2020, the California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) enacted emergency measures regarding diagnostic COVID testing for **essential workers that do not have any COVID symptoms** (i.e. asymptomatic).

The DMHC defines an “essential worker” as follows. You are an “essential worker” if you:

- Work in a correctional facility
- Work in a congregate care facility (e.g. a residential care facility for the elderly or a shelter for people experiencing homelessness)
- Provide care in the home to an elderly person or a person with a disability

You are an “essential worker” if you work in one of the sectors listed below and regularly have contact with the public or with people who may have or been exposed to COVID-19:

- health care (e.g., hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, long-term care facilities, ambulatory surgery centers, health care providers’ offices, health care clinics, pharmacies, blood banks, dialysis centers, hospices, home health)
- emergency services (e.g., police and public safety departments, fire departments, emergency service response operations)
- public transportation (e.g., public transit, passenger rail service, passenger ferry service, public airports, commercial airlines)
- food service (e.g., grocery stores, convenience stores, restaurants, grocery or meal delivery services)
- education (e.g., childcare establishments, pre-kindergarten programs, primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities)

Finally, you are an “essential worker” if you work in one of the sectors listed below *and* have frequent interactions with the public or can’t regularly maintain at least six feet of space from other workers:

- retail
- manufacturing
- agriculture (e.g., harvesting sites or facilities, packing facilities, slaughter facilities)
- food manufacturing (e.g., food production and processing facilities, food packing facilities)

If you don't have any COVID-19 symptoms and if you have no known or suspected exposure to COVID-19, but you are an "essential worker," ***it is imperative that you call UnitedHealthcare's designated County of Los Angeles employee phone line at (800) 367-2660 before seeking any COVID testing.***

UnitedHealthcare will offer you a testing appointment that is no more than 48 hours after you contact us. The testing site must be within 15 miles or 30 minutes from your residence or workplace. If we cannot find you an available appointment within that time and distance, then you can go to any available testing site (in-network or out-of-network), take a test, and file a claim with UHC for reimbursement**. Again, you must call UnitedHealthcare at **(800) 367-2660 before** seeking any COVID testing.

** Testing Providers not in the UHC provider network may or may not choose to bill UHC directly. If they choose not to submit the claim, we will rely on you to submit the claim to UHC. You may refer to the UHC claims address on the back of your ID card for submitting HMO claims directly to UHC. Additionally, Testing Providers may not accept UHC's payment in full and may bill you for the difference between what we pay and the full amount of the Provider charges.