Testing Criteria for COVID-19 in the Emergency Department

- **Consider** patients who exhibit signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19
  - Fever (subjective or confirmed), and/or
  - Symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing).

**Symptomatic individuals who need testing:**

- Patients exhibit signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19
  - Fever (subjective or confirmed), and/or
  - Symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath)

* UVMMC has a COVID-19 Hotline for providers to support decision-making in the care of patients suspected of having COVID-19: (802) 847-8787.

*If admitting a patient with low probability of COVID-19, contact the admitting clinician to discuss COVID testing prior to ordering. eg: patient with fever & known source, no respiratory symptoms.

**Procedure for ED Testing:**

- Provider places order for Flu/RSV only if patient is being admitted or is immunocompromised.
- Provider places order for COVID-19 in EPIC. **If low probability patient, please discuss with admitting physician before placing the order.**
- Complete VDH Requisition and answer prioritization questions on the form – it is available at Desk or through Epic link or on intranet site
- You no longer need to call VDH – 802-863-7240. You may call if you have questions.
- Collect a single nasopharyngeal swab to send to lab with VDH Requisition.
- Test Results will be returned to a COVID In basket being monitored by staff who will notify the patient.
- Infectious Disease Consult is recommended for patients where there is uncertainty or disagreement and are being hospitalized.