



IDSA Statement on COVID-19 Testing

As the COVID-19 public health emergency rapidly evolves, responses must keep up with emerging needs.

Access to COVID-19 testing still remains inadequate throughout the United States, greatly limiting the ability of clinicians and public health experts to accurately ascertain and track the prevalence, severity, mortality and transmissibility of this disease. Insufficient access to testing also limits clinicians' opportunities to appropriately identify, treat and isolate patients.

While strict limits on who can be tested are no longer in place, when availability of tests is limited, clinicians and public health authorities need strategies to prioritize testing. IDSA has developed the following advice to help clinicians test wisely. In addition to epidemiologic exposures, clinicians should consider clinical features, results of other diagnostic tests, and how the test result will change clinical and infection control management.

IDSA also describes currently available COVID-19 diagnostic testing options and their limitations and identifies critical questions on which rapid information is needed from the CDC and other public health officials. IDSA continues to advocate for policies and investments to expand access to COVID-19 testing and to ensure appropriate access to testing for future public health emergencies.

[Prioritization of Diagnostic Testing, Currently Available COVID-19 Tests and Limitations](#)

[Policy Recommendations to Ensure Appropriate Access to Testing](#)