

I am writing to you today to ask for your support in assuring that test requests from your office for COVID -19 testing submitted to any of the Steward Hospital COVID-19 Outpatient Testing facilities are in accord with the Steward Health Care **Testing Priority** algorithm noted below. We have updated our priority list based on the newly reported CDC guidelines (attached) to ensure we have adequate supply of test collection kits for our patients and healthcare workers. We would greatly appreciate your support in this action and only order tests for those persons who meet the criteria under items 1 to 3. Asymptomatic patients have the lowest priority and we hope that you will discourage testing at this time.

### **Testing Priorities:**

1. System will prioritize **HOSPITALIZED** patients and **HCWs who are ill** first.

Then, regarding the Ambulatory Care setting, testing priorities continue as follows:

2. Individuals with fevers and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory tract illness who also:
  - are elderly<sup>1</sup>
  - have underlying chronic health conditions<sup>2</sup>
  - are HCWs or First Responders