

The primary preferred collection mechanism is a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab. Nasal or mid-terminate swabs are secondarily preferred. An oropharyngeal swab is not a preferred collection mechanism.

**If a situation develops where there is limited capacity to conduct COVID-19 testing**, UDOH recommends prioritizing testing according to the below rank-ordered epidemiologic risk factors. Testing of asymptomatic persons would not be a priority. When testing resources are limited, testing should be prioritized to **Priority 1** in the table below.

If testing resources are limited, testing should be provided to patients with fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) AND:

### Epidemiologic Risk Factors

#### **PRIORITY 1:**

- Hospitalized patients (to inform infection control)
- Healthcare personnel and first responders providing direct patient care
- Any person who lives or works in a congregate setting such as a nursing home, correctional facility, or shelter
- Individuals who may have other illnesses that would be treated differently if they were infected with COVID-19 and therefore physician judgement is especially important for this population

#### **PRIORITY 2:**