Inpatient COVID-19 Testing Algorithm

Does my patient need testing for COVID-19?
RST/MCHS Inpatient COVID-19 Testing Algorithm

In the last 48 hours, has the patient had a fever* OR new symptoms**?

Yes
- Has the patient had a COVID-19 test in the last 72 hours?
  - Yes
    - Consider alternative diagnosis.
  - No
    - Has the patient had close contact*** with a person with a LABORATORY CONFIRMED case of COVID-19?
      - Yes
        - Is there a clear alternate cause for symptoms?
          - Yes
            - Testing not routinely indicated.
              - If testing is felt to be needed, contact ID.#
          - No
            - Meets criteria for testing.
      - No
        - NO TEST PERFORMED

No

Is there a clear alternate cause for symptoms?

Yes
- How long has the patient been hospitalized?
  - > 24 HOURS
    - Meets criteria for testing.
  - ≤ 24 HOURS
    - NO TEST PERFORMED

*Fever present at any point in the last 48 hours: can be objective (100.5 F) or subjective
**Symptoms include new: cough or shortness of breath, sore throat, diarrhea, respiratory distress, chills, myalgias, loss of smell, or change or loss of taste sensation
***Close contact is defined by CDC as household contact or:
1. Being within approximately 6 feet of a COVID-19 patient for a prolonged period of time (more than 5 minutes).
2. Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g. being coughed on)
# Order Infectious Disease COVID-19 consult