TESTING FOR COVID-19

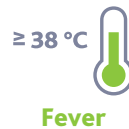## The difference between screening and testing

Screening

This involves checking for possible symptoms that people may exhibit and taking their temperature. People will also be asked questions about their health and travel history.

Testing

A healthcare professional will use a nose and mouth swab to take a sample of the fluid at the back of the nose and throat to send to a laboratory for testing.

COVID-19 signs and symptoms are similar to the flu

≥ 38 °C **Fever**

Sore throat

Dry cough

Some patients with COVID-19 also present with difficulty breathing. If you have any of these symptoms, consult your doctor about getting tested.

What criteria should a patient meet before getting tested?

The latest criteria include that patients should present with COVID-19 symptoms and should show signs of acute respiratory illness, regardless of their travel history or any history of close contact with a known or suspected COVID-19 patient.

You should get tested if you have acute respiratory illness with sudden onset of either coughing, a sore throat, shortness of breath or fever (≥ 38 °C) or if you have a history of fever.

Where can you go to get screened and tested?

Any person who presents with any of the above symptoms can visit their nearest clinic or healthcare facility to be screened. Government has also deployed healthcare workers in selected areas to do door-to-door screening. They will identify patients who pose a potential risk and refer them to their nearest clinic or relevant facility.

Pharmacies such as Dis-Chem have also recently launched drive-through testing stations to bolster the fight against COVID-19.

Medihelp benefits

Medihelp provides comprehensive cover at the scheme tariff for testing and treatment costs of confirmed COVID-19 cases in and out of hospital. A functionality is available on the Member Zone where members who have tested positive for COVID-19 can upload proof of their pathology results, doctor's consultation and medicine prescription.

https://www.nicd.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-Quick-reference-NDoH-Criteria-2-April-update.pdf
https://sacoronavirus.co.za/2020/04/01/statement-of-the-minister-of-health-launch-of-mobile-laboratories-national-health-laboratory-services-1-april-2020/