



## NUHW COVID-19 Testing Proposal

Six months into the pandemic, most hospitals and correctional facilities in California are still refusing to:

- 1) Regularly test workers for COVID-19.
- 2) Test workers who have been exposed to the coronavirus without adequate PPE.
- 3) Test patients or incarcerated individuals for COVID-19 upon admission to a hospital or correctional facility.

The importance of regular testing to limit the spread of COVID-19 is illustrated by the fact that major professional sports leagues are testing athletes at least every other day. The worst COVID-19 outbreaks, including one in Orange County that ended the life of one of our members and infected 40 percent of patients occurred in hospitals that refused to test workers or patients upon admission.

Our testing proposal is based on guidelines put in place by the California Department of Public Health to govern testing of workers and patients at skilled nursing facilities. We are proposing to extend the same testing guidelines to correctional facilities, while amending the guidelines for application to hospitals and home health agencies.

Here is what we're proposing:

- **Testing of Patients:** Test all newly admitted, re-admitted, and newly treated patients for COVID-19 infection. Also, test all patients when they exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 or have a known exposure to COVID-19.
- **Baseline testing of all healthcare workers:** Test all staff of inpatient facilities and home health agencies.
- **Surveillance testing of workers:** After the baseline round of testing, test 25% of all workers every seven days, such that 100% of the staff is tested each month.
- **Testing of symptomatic workers:** Test healthcare workers when they have symptoms of COVID-19.
- **Testing of exposed workers:** Test healthcare workers when they are exposed to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient while not wearing appropriate PPE.