ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-07 **DATE: AUGUST 11, 2020**

SUBJECT: ORDER REGARDING CRITERIA FOR COVID-19 TESTING FOR SYMPTOMATIC AND ASYMPTOMATIC PERSONS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

By virtue of the authority vested in me by Mayor's Order 2020-046, dated March 11, 2020, Administrative Order No. 2020-01, dated March 13, 2020, Mayor's Order 2020-079, dated July 22, 2020, the COVID-19 Response Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, effective March 17, 2020, and the COVID-19 Response Supplemental Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, effective April 10, 2020, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Administrative Order is to set forth criteria for the District's COVID-19 testing of individuals who are at high risk for contracting COVID-19 or who work in high risk settings.

II. FINDINGS AND ORDER

The Director of the Department of Health (Director), as the lead in the District's efforts in containment and mitigation of COVID-19, has determined that it is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of District providers and others in the community to take the necessary steps to be tested for COVID-19 infection in order to prevent the spread of this disease in the District.

In response, the Director makes the following findings:

a) A significant number of individuals work in high-risk, congregate settings. These locations include long term care settings such as skilled nursing facilities. assisted living residences, intermediate care facilities, community residential facilities, detention centers, and homeless shelters. Additionally, the emergence of dormitories and residence halls for colleges, universities, and boarding schools also present concerns of a high risk for exposure to COVID-19.

b) Scientific evidence shows that certain persons are at high risk for complications from COVID-19, including those with conditions such as such as cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), immunocompromised state from solid organ transplant, Type 2 diabetes, serious heart conditions, sickle cell disease, and obesity.

c) Asymptomatic persons may have been exposed to persons recently diagnosed with COVID-19, placing them at risk for contracting and spreading the disease.

Based on the above findings, the Director makes the following Order:

a) **COVID-19 testing shall be made available, once in every seven (7) day period to any persons who work in high risk settings, are at high risk for complications from COVID-19, or have been exposed to a recently diagnosed person**: For the duration of the public health emergency caused by COVID-19 and to help prevent, control, and protect the spread of COVID-19 in the District, the Director orders that COVID-19 testing shall be available to any person who meets the foregoing criteria.

b) **An order for testing by a physician or other health care provider shall not be necessary for a person at high risk, or employed in a high risk setting, or recently exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 in order to be tested**: It is medically necessary, during the duration of the public health emergency, for persons who meet these criteria to be tested, no more than once per seven (7) day period, without requiring prior determination of medical necessity for clinical management by an attending provider, in order to identify new cases in the District of Columbia, to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the District of Columbia, and to allow for the public health management of COVID-19 in the District of Columbia.

III. DURATION OF ORDER

This Order shall remain in effect during the period of Public Health Emergency as declared by the Mayor in Mayor's Order 2020-079, unless earlier rescinded or superseded.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order shall become effective immediately.

LaQuandra S. Nesbitt

LaQuandra S. Nesbitt, MD, MPH
Director, District of Columbia
Department of Health