Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What should I do if I'm symptomatic (cough, fever, difficulty breathing) and suspect I may have been exposed to COVID-19?
A: Contact your doctor if you have symptoms such as fever, cough, or difficulty breathing and have been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19, or if you live in or have recently traveled from an area with existing cases of COVID-19. Your healthcare provider will work with the local health department to determine if you need to be tested for COVID-19. They will also provide you with guidance for how to manage your visit to their office and what precautions you should take to avoid infecting others. It is possible that virtual or telehealth visits should be used if available to avoid spreading the virus. If in-person care is necessary, the office may advise you to wear a surgical mask if you have one; wait in your vehicle/outside to be transported into the facility away from other patients; and more.

Q: Who gets tested for COVID-19?
A: The CDC has issued guidance to healthcare providers for determining which patients likely need testing. Providers will use their judgement of a patient's symptoms, travel history and risk factors to evaluate a patient. The provider will then contact the local health department to make a final determination and execute the testing process.

Q: Does everyone who suspects COVID-19 need medical treatment?
A: No. The vast majority of cases diagnosed thus far around the world have been mild or completely without symptoms and may be cared for by staying home and using comfort care similar to those for a cold: fluids, rest and over-the-counter medications. Hospitals will focus on caring for those who have more severe cases of the virus, such as populations with underlying health issues that put them at greater risk.

Q: Will my insurer cover treatments for COVID-19?
A: Payers, whether you have private insurance, Medicaid or Medicare, should cover treatments/care for COVID-19 just as if the care were for any other respiratory illness. At this time, patients still may experience cost sharing for those treatments, such as copays or deductibles. If you have questions about your cost sharing responsibilities, contact your insurer.

Q: Where is the best source of up-to-date information about COVID-19?
A: For residents and providers in Michigan, the MDHHS website is the best place to start as it contains both Michigan-specific information and the CDC's guidance for the public and healthcare providers. You can visit the site at https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_5104_97675---,00.html.

Q: When will a vaccine become available?
A: Researchers are working to develop a COVID-19 vaccine, but that process will take 12-18 months. The U.S. Congress is working to ensure that the vaccine is widely available and that it's covered by insurers or made available at low or no cost.