

COVID-19 Laboratory Prioritization Advisory - Update March 16, 2020

Background

With commercial laboratories becoming available to conduct testing for COVID-19, Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) is focusing its limited testing resources on the at-risk population (see prioritization matrix below). **Health care providers will no longer be required to call SCPH to obtain approval for testing. Please follow the latest [CDC guidelines](#) for determining if COVID-19 testing should be done.**

Actions requested of all clinicians with patients suspected of having COVID-19 infection:

1. **Collect** respiratory specimens: nasopharyngeal (NP) and oropharyngeal swabs (OP). Also collect bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) and sputum, if possible.
 *Note: NP and OP specimens can be placed into one viral transport medium. See [COVID-19 Coronavirus Specimen Collection and Laboratory Guidance](#).
2. **Order** respiratory panels for suspect COVID-19 patients.
3. **Send** specimens for Tier 1 patients with relevant [submission form](#) to SCPHL. Also complete the form below and fax to (916) 854-8941 or email to SacPHLab@sacounty.net. A PUI number will be assigned by SCPH.
4. **Send** specimens for Tier 2 and 3 to commercial laboratories. A PUI number is NOT required for commercial laboratory testing.
5. **Report** all positive cases to SCPH by phone at (916) 875-5881 AND electronically via CalREDIE or confidential fax at (916) 854- 9709.

Tier 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients who are hospitalized or severely ill, regardless of age or comorbidities • Health care workers, including emergency medical services (EMS) and other first responders, who are symptomatic • Individuals residing in congregate living facilities (e.g. jails, shelters, long-term care facilities) who are symptomatic
Tier 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons 60 and older with comorbidities, especially those with cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, chronic respiratory disease, hypertension, and cancer
Tier 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All other patients not included in Tier 1 or Tier 2

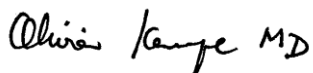
Laboratory Testing

- Results from SCPHL should be available within 1 to 3 business days (Monday-Friday).
- Quest Diagnostics is now available to conduct testing for COVID-19. See Quest Diagnostics COVID-19 website for more information: <http://www.questdiagnostics.com/home/Covid-19/>

Resources

1. Evaluating and Testing PUI (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>
2. SCPHL: <https://dhs.sacounty.net/PUB/Laboratory/Pages/Laboratory-Home.aspx>

Sincerely,



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Sacramento County Public Health Laboratory Test COVID-19

Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth
<p>Please check all that apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hospitalized Hospital: _____ MRN: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Underlying health conditions (ex. cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Health care worker, emergency medical services (EMS), or other first responder Hospital or agency: _____ City: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Congregate living facility Facility name: _____ City: _____</p>		