

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

Background

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** nasopharyngeal (NP) swab for testing. If oropharyngeal (OP) swab is also collected, place both NP and OP in one viral transport medium. Also collect bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) and sputum, if possible.
 * 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 **completed** [submission form](#), including patient address, to SCPHL. **Specimens can be dropped off at the Sacramento County Chest Clinic at 4600 Broadway Suite 300; check in at the front counter. Specimens can only be dropped off from health care providers.** Also complete the form below and fax to (916) 854-8941 or email to SacPHLab@saccounty.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

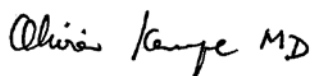
Laboratory Testing

- 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.saccounty.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>		