

COVID-19 – LABORATORY TESTING GUIDANCE

February 13, 2020

Situational Update

Currently, only the laboratories at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are able to test for COVID-19 (2019 novel coronavirus). The State and County labs have received assays for testing, however validation has been put on hold until further notice.

Reporting and Laboratory Testing

Report immediately all suspected cases to Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) at (916) 875-5881.

SCPH will only coordinate testing with CDC for patients that meet the patients under investigation (PUI) definition.

Criteria for Patient Under Investigation (PUI)

Clinical Features	&	Epidemiologic Risk
Fever ¹ or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)	AND	Any person, including health care workers, who has had close contact ² with a lab-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever ¹ and signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)	AND	A history of travel from Hubei Province (including city of Wuhan), China within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever ¹ and signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization	AND	A history of travel from mainland China within 14 days of symptom onset

¹ Fever may be subjective or confirmed

Specimen Collection

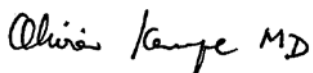
- **Specimens must be collected by a health care provider.**
- Specimens to be collected for testing include:
 - Upper respiratory specimen [e.g. nasopharyngeal (NP), oropharyngeal (OP)]
 - Lower respiratory specimen [e.g. bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL), tracheal aspirate]
 - Serum (only needed if NP or OP swabs are positive)

Contact SCPH at (916) 875-5881 with any questions.

Resources

- ²Information for Healthcare Providers (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- COVID-19 (2019 Novel Coronavirus) (SCPH): <https://dhs.saccounty.net/PUB/Pages/Communicable-Disease-Control/2019-Novel-Coronavirus-%282019-nCoV%29.aspx>

Sincerely,



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 Public Health Officer