351 N. Mountain View Ave., San Bernardino, CA, 92415 | Phone: 909.387.9146 | Fax: 909.387.6228

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Public Health

Trudy Raymundo
Director

Corwin Porter
Assistant Director

Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D.
Health Officer

Erin Gustafson, M.D., MPH
Acting Health Officer

KEY POINTS FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS ON COVID-19 TESTING

As with any other test, providers should order coronavirus (COVID-19) testing through Quest Diagnostics, LabCorp, and any other commercial lab offering testing, unless not possible for some patients due lack of insurance. If unable to order testing through a commercial lab, determine if the patient meets the Department of Public Health (DPH) Laboratory (PHL) criteria, then follow the general lab instructions in this document. For more detailed testing guidance, please see this document.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY TESTING CRITERIA

Clinical Features		Epidemiologic Risk Factors
Fever **or** signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough, shortness of breath)	*AND*	Any person (including health care workers) who in the last 14 days before symptom onset has had close contact* with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient
Fever **with** severe acute community acquired lower respiratory illness (e.g. pneumonia, ARDS) **requiring ICU care** without alternative explanatory diagnosis.	*AND*	No source of exposure has been identified.
Fever **or** signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)	*AND*	A history of travel from affected geographic areas** in the last 14 days before symptom onset
*Last known exposure must be 14 days prior to symptom onset.		
**Affected Geographic Areas with Widespread or Sustained Community Transmission include China, Iran, Most European Countries, United Kingdom and Ireland. Last reviewed by CDC on March 17, 2020.		
Local epidemiology of COVID-19 will also be used to assess testing criteria.		
All PUIs must have negative rapid influenza/ RSV tests; and a negative molecular respiratory panel if this testing is available at the facility.		

1. Collect a single nasopharyngeal (NP) swab. Use regular viral kits with synthetic fiber swab with plastic shafts—**NO COTTON swabs**. Place swabs immediately into sterile tubes containing 2-3 mL of viral transport media. If NP swabs are not available, 2-3 mL of NP wash/aspirate or nasal aspirate can be collected into a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap sputum collection cup or sterile dry container.

2. Specimens received in the lab must have prior approval by DPH Communicable Disease Section (CDS) before submission. Please call CDS at (800) 722-4794 for prior approval.

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3. Specimens need to be received at the lab by 10 a.m. for same-day test results. **Specimens must be received at the laboratory during normal business hours (Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., closed weekends and county holidays) unless special arrangements are made.**

4. **Specimen submission does not guarantee testing.** Testing priority will be based on patient health history and public health surveillance guidelines.

If a patient does not meet criteria for testing through PHL, you may still order testing through Quest or LabCorp without approval of DPH. If you have additional questions regarding testing, please call DPH PHL at (909) 458-9430.

For more information on Quest Diagnostics or LabCorp testing procedures, please visit their websites:

- Quest Diagnostics: www.questdiagnostics.com/home/Covid-19/HCP/
- LabCorp: www.labcorp.com/tests/139900/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-naa