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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

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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 they meet the criteria below If the patient meets the Department of Public Health (DPH) Laboratory (PHL) criteria, please follow the general lab instructions in this document. For more detailed testing guidance, please see this document.

San Bernardino County Public Health Lab COVID-19 Testing Criteria
Hospitalized patients who have signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 in order to inform decisions related to infection control or medical management.
Residents and staff of long-term care facilities with signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19.
Other persons who are at higher risk for severe infection with signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19. These persons include older adults (age ≥65 years) and individuals with chronic medical conditions.
Residents and staff of correctional facilities and other congregate settings with signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19.
Healthcare personnel with signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19.
First responders and law enforcement personnel with sign and symptoms compatible with COVID-19.

The testing criteria are based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID19/GuidanceforPrioritizationofPatientsforLaboratoryTestingforCOVID19.aspx and from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html.

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, the following are alternate sources:
    a. Oral-Pharyngeal swab: non-cotton throat swab in 2-3 mL of viral transport media.
    b. Nasal swab: Flocked non-cotton swab in 2-3 mL of viral transport media.
    c. Nasal Wash: 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.

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2. **Providers no longer need to complete the COVID-19 Specimen Intake Form for specimens sent to the Public Health Lab, and Person Under Investigation (PUI) numbers are no longer required. Please call 909-501-9435 to obtain authorization to send the specimen to the Public Health lab.**

3. **Specimens must be received at the laboratory during normal business hours (Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., closed weekends and county holidays) unless special arrangements are made.**

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