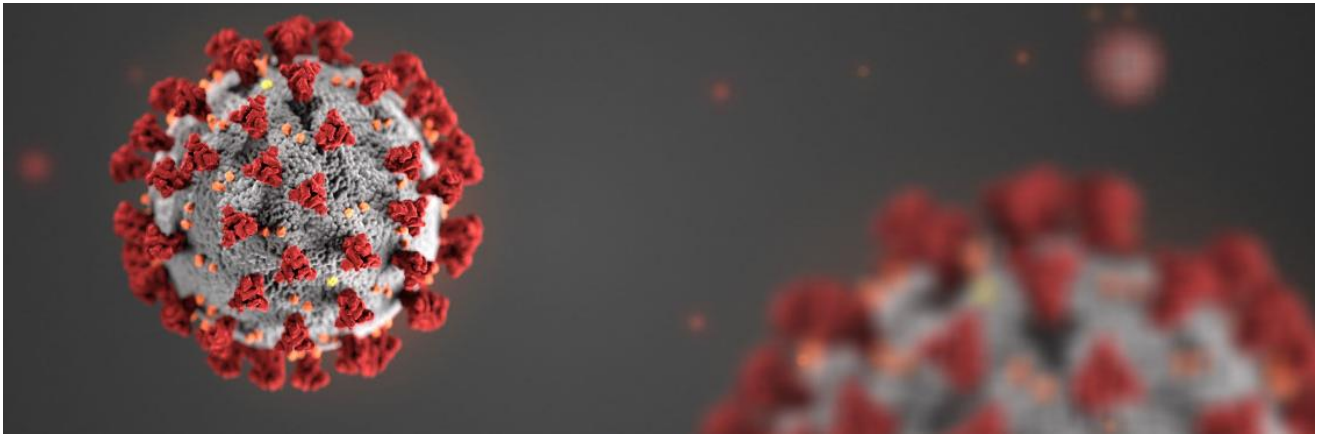


Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Testing



Please carefully review the below guidelines for providers regarding testing and diagnosis of COVID-19:

- For providers: If you see a patient that manifests the criteria of a PUI (see reverse for criteria), *immediately* notify your local or state health department.
- For providers: only collect specimens for laboratory testing if you are instructed by the local and/or state public health authorities to do so. All specimens should be collected at the clinic of origin and shipped directly to the CDC or your local/state health department laboratory (if testing is available there). Do not send patients to other locations for specimen collection. Please follow link below for collection and shipping guidelines.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>
- If a patient meets the criteria for COVID-19 they may call the CDC coronavirus hotline: 1-800-525-0127 and press #. The CDC will direct the patient to the most appropriate location for treatment and/or diagnostic testing.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

In December, 2019, a novel coronavirus outbreak (related to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) viruses) was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. This virus can cause pneumonia, is thought to be zoonotic in origin (i.e., contracted from animals), and is now demonstrating proficient human-to-human transmission. As of February 28, 2020, the disease has spread to over 50 international locations, with major epidemics ongoing in China, Iran, Italy, Japan and South Korea.

Determination of Patients Under Investigation (PUI)

“Local health departments, in consultation with clinicians, should determine whether a patient is a patient under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19”. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>) See below table for criteria that should be utilized to make this determination:

Clinical Features		Epidemiologic Risk
Fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)	AND	Any person, including healthcare workers, who has had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization	AND	A history of travel from affected geographic areas (China, Iran, Italy, Japan, South Korea) within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization and without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g, influenza)	AND	No source of exposure has been identified

Collection and Shipping of Specimens for Diagnostic Testing

IF directed by the local and/or state health department, collect the following specimens to be sent to the CDC for testing:

- Lower respiratory tract specimen: bronchoalveolar lavage, tracheal aspirate OR sputum
- Upper respiratory tract specimen: nasopharyngeal swab AND oropharyngeal swab OR nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate OR nasal aspirate

Once specimens have been collected, please ship directly to the CDC or to your local/state health department laboratory (if testing is available there).

- CDC Form 50.34 must be completed for each specimen submitted
- Follow International Air Transport Association (IATA) guidelines (<https://www.iata.org/en/programs/cargo/dgr>) and ship directly to the CDC (or local/state health department laboratory)
- Use universal precautions when collecting and handling specimens (lab coat, gloves and face protection)

Testing for Other Causes of Respiratory Disease

Testing for other respiratory pathogens should not delay specimen shipping to CDC. If a PUI tests positive for another respiratory pathogen, after clinical evaluation and consultation with public health authorities, they may no longer be considered a PUI. Use universal precautions (lab coat, gloves and face protection) when collecting and handling specimens to be tested for other respiratory pathogens.

References

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>).
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>.