

Health Advisory: SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Testing Urgent Notice

Minnesota Department of Health, Thurs Mar 12 15:00 CDT 2020

Action Steps:

Local and tribal health department: Please forward to hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, emergency departments, and convenience clinics in your jurisdiction.

Hospitals, clinics and other facilities: Please forward to infection preventionists, infectious disease physicians, emergency department staff, hospitalists, primary care clinicians, and all other health care providers who might see patients with acute respiratory symptoms.

Health care providers:

- Commercial laboratories are offering SARS-CoV-2 lab testing.
- Due to national reagent shortages for testing, please submit one specimen per patient (By priority: both NP and OP swabs in ONE container, one NP only, or one OP).
- Only one specimen will be tested per patient
- Visit the [CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019](#) website for additional information on COVID-19.
- Consider clinical indicators before submitting a specimen, refer to [Health Advisory: Evaluating and Testing for COVID-19 in Minnesota](#).

Patient Specimen Collection Guidance/Specimen Type

Specimens for testing include:

Nasopharyngeal (NP), oropharyngeal (OP) specimens, and a sputum specimen (if the patient has a productive cough or sputum is required for clinical reasons).

Instructions for specimen collection and shipping can be found at [CDC Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons Under Investigation \(PUIs\) for Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

A [Clinical Testing & Submission Form](#) and a COVID-19 Patient Testing Form ([MDH COVID Patient Testing Forms](#)) must be completed for each specimen, note COVID-19 testing in comments. Please submit only one specimen per patient, or an NP and OP swab in a single container.

Positive tests from the MDH are considered presumptive positive. Positive results will be communicated but they must also be confirmed at CDC at this time.

For More Information

More information is available at the [CDC's Coronavirus Disease 2019 webpage](#) or by calling MDH at 651-201-5414.

A copy of this HAN is available at: [MDH Health Alert Network](#)

The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.