



**COVID-19 Laboratory Prioritization Advisory - Update
 March 13, 2020**

Please distribute to all providers in the facility

Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ShastaCOVID-19> for an electronic version of this Health Alert

Background

With commercial laboratories becoming available to conduct testing for COVID-19, Shasta County Public Health (SCPH) is focusing its limited testing resources on the at-risk population (see prioritization matrix below). **Health care providers will no longer be required to call SCPH to obtain approval for testing.** Please follow the latest [CDC guidelines](#) for determining if COVID-19 testing should be done. Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 have fever (objective or subjective) and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing, fatigue).

Actions requested of all clinicians with patients suspected of having COVID-19 infection:

1. **Collect** respiratory specimens: nasopharyngeal (NP) specimens are recommended. If also collecting an oropharyngeal swab (OP), place both the NP and OP swabs into one viral transport medium tube. See [COVID-19 Coronavirus Specimen Collection and Laboratory Guidance](#).
2. **Order** influenza testing and/or respiratory panels for suspect COVID-19 patients.
3. **Send** specimens for Tier 1 patients with [requisition form](#) to Shasta County Public Health Lab (SCPHL); see address on form. For questions about specimen collection call the SCPHL at 530-225-5072. For after hours and weekend deliveries call 530-395-0132 to arrange delivery time. A PUI number will be assigned by SCPH.
4. **Complete** the form on page 3 below for Tier 1 specimens and fax to 530-225-5074.
5. **Send** specimens for Tier 2 and 3 to commercial laboratories. A PUI number is NOT required for commercial laboratory testing.
6. **Report** all positive cases to SCPH by phone at (530) 225-5591 AND confidential fax at (530) 225- 5074. After hours, call 530-395-0132 to report positive cases.¹

The following Tiers may change over time. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ShastaCOVID-19> for the most current Laboratory Prioritization Advisory.

Symptomatic individuals AND one of the criteria below.

Tier 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals with known exposure to a presumptive positive or confirmed COVID-19 case • Travelers who returned from areas with sustained community transmission² <i>within 14 days</i> prior to symptom onset • Patients who are hospitalized or severely ill, regardless of age or comorbidities • Individuals with pneumonia • Health care workers, including emergency medical services (EMS) and other first responders • Individuals residing in congregate living facilities (e.g. jails, shelters, long-term care facilities)
Tier 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons 60 and older with comorbidities, especially those with cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, chronic respiratory disease, hypertension, and cancer
Tier 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All other patients not included in Tier 1 or 2



Shasta County
**Health & Human
Services Agency**

**Public Health
Branch**

Laboratory Testing

- Results from SCPHL should be available within 2 business days.
- Commercial laboratory testing is now available for COVID-19 from [ARUP Laboratories](#), [LabCorp](#), and [Quest Diagnostics](#).

¹The California Department of Public Health has updated Title 17 Sections 2500 and 2505 of the California Code of Regulations to include Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on the lists of reportable conditions.

²Communities with sustained community transmission include countries with Level 2 or higher international travel advisory, see list at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>. Providers may also consider testing of individuals with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 who have visited [California counties with community transmission](#). Visiting should involve more than air or car travel through the county.

Resources

1. Evaluating and Testing PUI (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>
2. ARUP Laboratories: <https://www.aruplab.com/infectious-disease/coronavirus>
3. LabCorp: <https://www.labcorp.com/information-labcorp-about-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
4. Quest Diagnostics: <https://www.questdiagnostics.com/home/Covid-19/>



**Shasta County Public Health Laboratory Test
COVID-19**

Fax this page to 530-225-5074

Include face sheet, history and physical or chart notes, and respiratory testing lab results

Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth
<p>Symptomatic individuals¹ AND one of the criteria below.</p> <p>Please check all that apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Known exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Travel history to area with sustained community transmission <i>within 14 days</i> prior to symptom onset Travel Dates: _____ Location(s): _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hospitalized Hospital: _____ MRN: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Health care worker, emergency medical services (EMS), or other first responder Hospital or agency: _____ City: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individual with pneumonia Hospital/Facility Name: _____ MRN: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Congregate living facility Facility Name: _____ City: _____</p> <p>If none of the above, send to commercial lab (ARUP, LabCorp, Quest) for testing.</p> <p>¹COVID-19 symptoms include fever (objective or subjective) and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing, fatigue)</p>		