



**COVID-19 Shasta County Laboratory Testing Advisory – Update to
Tier 1 Criteria for Public Health Testing
March 27, 2020**

Please distribute to all providers in the facility

Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/t7wna9g> for an electronic version of this Health Advisory

FOR SHASTA COUNTY PROVIDERS ONLY

For providers from outside Shasta County, please contact your local health department
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/LocalHealthServicesAndOffices.aspx#>

Background

With commercial laboratories becoming available to conduct testing for COVID-19, Shasta County Public Health (SCPH) is focusing its limited testing resources on individuals with relevant symptoms that meet Tier 1 priority criteria. See symptom description and prioritization criteria Tiers 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.

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

1. **Collect** respiratory specimens: nasopharyngeal (NP) specimens are recommended.¹
2. **Order** influenza testing and/or respiratory panels for suspect COVID-19 patients.
3. **Tier 1:**
 - a. **Send** specimens along with a completed [Lab Requisition Form](#) to Shasta County Public Health Lab (SCPHL); see address on form.
 - b. Specimens may be **delivered** directly or by courier Monday-Friday 8am-5pm and weekends 9am-10am. To arrange for delivery times outside of these hours call 530-395-0132. For questions about specimen collection supplies or packaging, call the SCPHL at 530-225-5072.
 - c. **Complete** the [COVID-19 Tier 1 Criteria Form](#) on pg. 3 and fax to 530-225-5074 by 10 AM daily. **Specimens received without this corresponding form will be delayed. The form will be reviewed for Tier 1 criteria; specimens that do NOT meet Tier 1 criteria will be forwarded to a commercial lab.**
 - d. Results are typically available within 2 business days.
4. **Tier 2 and 3: Send** specimens to commercial laboratories (LabCorp or Quest). A PUI number is not required.
5. **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.²

¹ *Acceptable alternatives when NP supplies are limited* include oropharyngeal (OP) swabs; and mid-turbinate or anterior nares by onsite self-collection or HCP collection. Multiples specimens may be taken with a single swab and swabs from two anatomic locations may be placed in the same vial. See [FDA FAQ on Diagnostic Testing for SARS-CoV-2](#) and [CDC Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling and Testing Clinical Specimens for COVID-19](#).

² The California Department of Public Health has updated Title 17 Sections 2500 and 2505 of the California Code of Regulations to include COVID-19 on the lists of reportable conditions.

Symptoms

Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 have fever (objective or subjective) and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing).

Who to test: Patients with sign/symptoms compatible with COVID-19 AND one of the priority criteria below:

Priority		Criteria
Tier 1	Shasta County Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individuals with known exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case• Patients who are hospitalized, regardless of age or comorbidities• Health care workers caring for patients confirmed to have COVID-19, 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	Commercial Labs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Persons 65 and older or with underlying health conditions (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

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

Commercial Testing

Providers are encouraged to test patients with symptoms compatible with COVID-19, including those that do not meet Tier 1 criteria. Even if turn-around time is delayed with commercial testing and results may not inform clinical management in a timely manner, the findings will provide information on the level of COVID-19 circulation in the community. For assistance with specimen collection supplies, please email DOC45@co.shasta.ca.us.

Resources

1. CDC Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons for COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>
2. FDA FAQ on Diagnostic Testing for SARS-CoV-2: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-situations-medical-devices/faqs-diagnostic-testing-sars-cov-2>
3. LabCorp: <https://www.labcorp.com/information-labcorp-about-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
4. Quest Diagnostics: <https://www.questdiagnostics.com/home/Covid-19/>

COVID-19 Tier 1 Criteria Form

**Fax this page along with face sheet/demographics and medical records (required) to
Shasta County Public Health Communicable Disease Program:
530-225-5074**

Patient Last Name	Patient First Name	Date of Birth
Provider/Clinic Name	Clinic Contact Name and Direct Phone Number	
<p>Please check all that apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Known exposure to a presumptive positive or confirmed COVID-19 case</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"/> Congregate living facility Facility Name: _____ City: _____</p> <p><i>If the specimen does not meet Tier 1 criteria, it will be forwarded to a commercial lab for testing.</i></p> <p>COVID-19 symptoms include fever (objective or subjective) and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g. cough, difficulty breathing)</p>		