



Tier 1 testing in the Public Health Laboratory – updated 9/15/20

Symptomatic. SCPH continues to recommend that patients with symptoms consistent with COVID-19¹ be tested, with certain priority populations tested at the Public Health Lab (see page 2).

Asymptomatic. With evidence supporting the potential for asymptomatic transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and the routine detection of asymptomatic cases in Shasta County, SCPH is continuing to urge testing of asymptomatic individuals via the OptumServe site or Rite Aid Drive-Thru sites or the Public Health Lab if they are known to be exposed to a COVID-19 case.

Please note: Tier 1 Priority is for the Shasta County Public Health Lab only. Refer to California Department of Public Health Testing Guidance for additional prioritization criteria using commercial labs. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Updated-COVID-19-Testing-Guidance.aspx>

Challenges with testing capacity and changing demands will require periodic updates to prioritization for specimens tested in the Public Health Lab. **Please check back for future updates.**

Actions requested of all clinicians with patients testing for COVID-19 infection:

1. **Collect and submit** upper respiratory specimens.² Supplies: Shasta County has received allotments of specimen collection supplies for health care facilities to test for COVID-19. If your facility needs VTM, saline, swabs, or testing kits please email DOC45@co.shasta.ca.us.
2. **Remind** patients with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 to self-isolate pending test results.
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 Saturdays 9am-10am (**closed Sundays**). 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.

¹ COVID-19 symptoms include fever (objective or subjective), cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, and new loss of taste or smell.

²Acceptable specimens include NP or OP collected by a healthcare provider, nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate or nasal wash/aspirate (NW) collected by a healthcare provider, or mid-turbinate or anterior nares by either supervised onsite self-collection or HCP collection. Multiple 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](#).

- c. **Complete** the **COVID-19 Tier 1 Criteria Form** on pg. 3 and fax to 530-225-5074 by 10 AM for same-day testing. **Specimens received without this corresponding form will be delayed. The form will be reviewed for Tier 1 criteria and specimens returned if criteria not met.**
- d. Results are typically available within 2 business days.
- 4. **Tier 2:** Send specimens to commercial laboratories (LabCorp, Quest, etc.).
- 5. **Report** all positive cases to SCPH by phone at (530) 225-5591 AND confidential fax at (530) 225-5074.³

Who to test:

Priority		Criteria
Tier 1	Shasta County Public Health Laboratory	<p>Patients with signs/symptoms compatible with COVID-19 AND one of the priority criteria below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients who are hospitalized, regardless of age or comorbidities • Health care workers, including emergency medical services (EMS) and other first responders • Individuals residing or working in congregate living facilities (e.g. jails, shelters, long-term care facilities) • Students or staff in K-12 in-person instructional setting • Students or staff in preschool or childcare - <i>new</i> <p>Any patient, regardless of symptom status, as capacity allows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals with known exposure to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case • Investigation and management of outbreaks (includes contact tracing)
Commercial Lab		<p>All other patients – refer to California Department of Public Health testing guidance for additional prioritization criteria when using commercial labs.</p> <p>https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Updated-COVID-19-Testing-Guidance.aspx</p>

³The 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.

SHASTA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

COVID-19 Tier 1 Criteria Form

Fax this page along with face sheet/demographics to Shasta County Public Health Communicable Disease Program:

530-225-5074

Patient Last Name	Patient First Name	Patient Date of Birth
Provider/Clinic Name	Clinic Contact Name and Direct Phone Number	

Please check all criteria below that apply for Tier 1 testing.

Symptomatic individuals⁴ AND one of the criteria below.

Hospitalized

Hospital: _____ MRN: _____

Health care worker, emergency medical services (EMS), or other first responder

Hospital or agency: _____ City: _____

Congregate living facility

Facility Name: _____ City: _____

Students or staff in K-12 **in-person** instructional setting

School name: _____

Students or staff in preschool or childcare

Site name: _____

Symptomatic or asymptomatic individuals meeting criteria below.

Known exposure to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case

Exposed in an outbreak

Outbreak setting (specify details): _____

If none of the above, send to commercial lab (LabCorp, Quest, etc.) for testing.

⁴COVID-19 symptoms include fever (objective or subjective), cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, and new loss of taste or smell.