



COLORADO

Department of Public
Health & Environment

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK BROADCAST

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FROM: CO-CDPHE

SUBJECT: HAN Update - COVID-19 | March 10, 2020

RECIPIENTS: Local Public Health Agencies / IPs / Clinical Labs / EDs / ID Physicians / Coroners

RECIPIENT INSTRUCTIONS: Please distribute widely in your office

HEALTH UPDATE | COVID-19 UPDATE | March 10, 2020

Health care providers: Please distribute widely in your office

Key points

- Confirmed cases of novel coronaviruses including COVID-19 are an **immediately reportable** condition by all laboratories and providers in Colorado. Please report positive tests by phone 24 hours a day.
- As of March 10, 2020 there are 17 patients in Colorado who have tested presumptively positive for COVID-19. An additional patient has had indeterminate results and is currently being treated as a presumptive positive. All tests will be confirmed at CDC, but public health actions will not be delayed while confirmatory testing is pending.
- Updated and expanded testing criteria are outlined in the table below. These criteria are **ONLY** for specimens being submitted to the CDPHE Laboratory.
- For submissions to commercial laboratories, please contact those labs directly. You can also reference the CDC guidance for evaluation of a patient with possible COVID-19 at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>
- Updated Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>
- Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html> and now indicates that NP and OP specimens may be combined at collection into a single vial.
- CDPHE will open the state's first community testing center for COVID-19 at the state lab at 10 a.m. March 11. See below for details.

Recommendations / guidance

- CDC has updated guidance for infection prevention and control for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. The updated guidance is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>

The most notable changes include the following:

PPE Recommendations

- ❑ Based upon local and regional supplies, facemasks are an acceptable alternative when the supply chain of respirators cannot meet the demand. During this time, available respirators should be prioritized for procedures that are likely to generate respiratory aerosols, which would pose the highest exposure risk to health care personnel (HCP). When the supply chain has been restored, facilities should return to the use of respirators.
- ❑ Eye protection, gloves, and gowns continue to be recommended. If gown shortages are experienced, they should be used for aerosol-generating procedures, care activities where splashes and sprays are anticipated, and high-contact patient care activities that provide opportunities for transfer of pathogens to the hands and clothing of HCP. Additional guidance is given regarding how to extend the use of respirators, facemasks, and eye protection as well as on PPE shortages. There is increased emphasis on the implementation of early source control measures such as putting a facemask on patients presenting with symptoms of respiratory infection.
 - ❑ Guidance on optimizing PPE supply is also available on CDPHE's website <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/resources-local-public-health-agencies-and-healthcare-re-providers>

Rooming

- ❑ Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms (AIIRs) should be reserved for patients undergoing aerosol-generating procedures.
- ❑ Patients with known or suspected COVID-19 can be cared for in a single-person room with the door closed.
- ❑ Facilities could consider designating entire units with dedicated HCP to care for those with known or suspected COVID-19, which will also help facilitate the extended use of respirators, facemasks, and eye protection.
- Updated Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>
- Updated and expanded testing criteria for testing at the CDPHE laboratory are outlined in the table below.

Specimens for COVID-19 will only be tested at the CDPHE lab if they meet one of the criteria below. Asymptomatic individuals will not be tested. Please use the following updated testing guidance.

Criteria	Risk Factors		Clinical Features
1.	Any person, including health care workers, who has had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset	AND	Fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)
2.	Any person with a history of travel to areas with ongoing community transmission ¹ within 14 days of symptom onset	AND	Fever or signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)
3.	Any person who is hospitalized	AND	Fever or signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)
4.	Any person who lives in a residential facility such as a nursing home	AND	Fever or signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)
5.	Any healthcare worker, clinical laboratory worker, or first responder who has new onset of symptoms within 14 days of having direct contact with patients with signs/symptoms of respiratory illness or their clinical specimens	AND	Fever or signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)
6.	Any person who is at risk of severe illness due to COVID-19 including older adults (age ≥ 65 years) and individuals with chronic medical conditions and/or an immunocompromised state that may put them at higher risk for poor outcomes (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, receiving immunosuppressive medications, chronic lung disease, chronic kidney disease)	AND	Fever or signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)
7.	Outbreaks or clusters of respiratory illness - any person who is a member of a group with multiple symptomatic individuals that is being investigated by public health officials	AND	Fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)

¹ A community (International, United States, and within Colorado once identified) with multiple unrelated cases among individuals who have not traveled to other communities with known transmission

- The testing criteria above are for specimens being tested at the CDPHE laboratory. Tests will be prioritized for individuals with severe disease, high risk of complications, and outbreak investigations if testing resources are limited.
- Patients who do not meet CDPHE's testing criteria can be tested at LabCorp and other labs that will conduct COVID-19 testing. CDPHE recommends providers use commercial laboratory testing whenever possible.
- Resources on specimen collection outside of healthcare settings is available on CDPHE's website <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/resources-local-public-health-agencies-and-healthcare-providers>

Community Testing Sites

- CDPHE will open the state's first community testing center for COVID-19 at the state lab at 10 a.m. March 11.
- This will be a drive-up testing center at 8100 E. Lowry Blvd, Denver, CO 80230. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m Wednesday - Friday of this week. In order to be tested at the state's community testing center, individuals must have an order from their providers (written or electronic) confirming they meet the testing criteria and need to be tested, and photo identification that matches the name on the provider's order.
- Additional details will be posted on the CDPHE website soon at <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/covid-19-testing>.

More information

- CDPHE COVID-19 web page: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus>.
- CDC COVID-19 web page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.
- For questions about COVID-19 in Colorado, call the **CDPHE Disease Reporting Line: 303-692-2700** or 303-370-9395 (after hours)