



DENVER - HEALTH ALERT NETWORK BROADCAST

MESSAGE ID: 20200309 1230

FROM: DENVER PUBLIC HEALTH and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

SUBJECT: D-HAN Update – COVID-19 Update

RECIPIENTS: Denver County: Family Med, IM, IP, ID, Hospitalist, Pulm, Critical Care, Peds, OB/GYN, ED, UC, and Denver OEM

RECIPIENT INSTRUCTIONS: Please distribute to healthcare providers

**HEALTH UPDATE**  
**COVID-19 Update**  
**Monday, March 9, 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 8, 2020 there are eight patients in Colorado who have tested presumptively positive for COVID-19. All tests will be confirmed at CDC, but public health actions will not be delayed while confirmatory testing is pending.
- CDC has updated guidance for health care workers potentially exposed to patients with COVID-19; updated guidance can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>
- CDPHE is aware that there is difficulty for outpatient practitioners to test for COVID-19 given current infection control recommendations. CDPHE and local public health staff are developing plans for alternate testing sites.
- Providers and laboratories should use CDPHE Lab Online <https://sites.google.com/state.co.us/lsd-horizon-lims/labonline> for faster specimen submission and access to results.
- Please do not place paper requisition forms directly in the bag with the specimens, as they can be contaminated.
- Presumptive positive specimens from commercial laboratories such as Quest and Labcorp should be submitted directly to CDC for confirmation and should NOT be sent to the CDPHE laboratory.
- Asymptomatic individuals will not be tested by the CDPHE laboratory.
- Please provide home care <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-home-care.html> and isolation guidance <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html> to all patients you test.
- Test results will be made available in LabOnline and through normal reporting channels when finalized. Public Health will call with positive test results, negative results can be found in LabOnline. Please do not call public health for this information.
- CDPHE testing criteria are unchanged.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:** Denver Public Health Disease Investigation at 303-602-3614

### Recommendations/Guidance

- CDC has updated guidance for health care workers potentially exposed to patients with COVID-19; updated guidance can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>. Although the guidance now states that facilities could consider allowing exposed health care workers who are asymptomatic to continue to work, it is CDPHE’s recommendation that this only occur when the health care facility would otherwise be unable to operate normally. Facilities should work with Denver Public Health to determine when this might be the case.
- CDPHE is aware that there is difficulty for outpatient practitioners to test for COVID-19 given current infection control precautions. CDPHE is working on developing alternate community testing sites. More information will be forthcoming. 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>
- Please provide home care <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-home-care.html> and isolation guidance <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html> to all patients you test.

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

Criteria	Clinical Features		Epidemiological Risk
1.	Fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)	<b>AND</b>	Any person, including health care workers, who has had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset
2.	Fever or signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)	<b>AND</b>	A history of travel to areas with ongoing community transmission within 14 days of symptom onset
3.	Severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization and without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)	<b>AND</b>	No source of exposure has been identified

### Laboratory Submission Guidance:

- The State Laboratory at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is operating seven days a week, testing for COVID-19. The lab is currently performing two testing runs daily.
- With current staffing and equipment resources, the state lab has the capacity to test up to 160 samples per day, assuming test kits from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are continuously available.

- Turnaround time for results is expected to be within 24-48 hours of receipt of specimens at the State Laboratory. Confirmatory testing on positive specimens will be performed at CDC but will not delay reporting or our public health response.
- Providers and laboratories should use CDPHE LabOnline <https://sites.google.com/state.co.us/lsd-horizon-lims/labonline> for faster specimen submission and access to results.
- To request a new LabOnline account, please visit: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeeuBVIClJrfHnhkPIpVioB2kjcqb3bcwZXpqAo0RVF9-FxA/viewform>
- To access the LabOnline User Agreement: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Y9Mb3aG5-QcPEjaDlCE--p96uSRZ5zVr/view>
- Return the signed agreement by email to [cdphe\\_labonline@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe_labonline@state.co.us)
- To reset a locked LabOnline account, visit [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPulbfRa4o\\_iO4itEdtBMJIdIMZh0z5S1eHQJlbpjWjAL\\_ug/vjewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPulbfRa4o_iO4itEdtBMJIdIMZh0z5S1eHQJlbpjWjAL_ug/vjewform)
- To login to your LabOnline account, please visit <https://labonline.cdphe.state.co.us/Account/SignIn>
- To view the LabOnline user guide/tutorial, please visit [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1oE-fjBEsum08oUAZX8BxIbaFGtA1e3efL-C44SmBEbl/edit#slide=id.g6e7ff0fff7\\_0\\_6](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1oE-fjBEsum08oUAZX8BxIbaFGtA1e3efL-C44SmBEbl/edit#slide=id.g6e7ff0fff7_0_6)
- Users from facilities that do not permit Google access may need to call 303-692-3399 or email [cdphe\\_labonline@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe_labonline@state.co.us)
- Please submit a test request for each sample, label each individual sample with sample type, patient name and date of birth and include the LabOnline chain of custody number with your sample submission. Paperwork should not be enclosed within the same container as the sample container.
- All specimen transport to the State Laboratory is through your routine courier shipping methods. On-demand courier service is available on a case-by-case basis and requires prior authorization and extenuating circumstances by calling 303-815-7220.
- For each patient, submit both nasopharyngeal (NP) **AND** oropharyngeal (OP) swabs in viral transport media. Additional sample types may be requested by CDPHE on a case-by-case basis (including lower respiratory specimens for patients with more severe illness). Store samples at 2-8°C for up to 72 hours post collection; after 72 hours samples must be frozen. Please ensure to snap off the shaft of the swab so the cap can fit securely on the viral transport medium tube.
- At this time, there is no cost associated with COVID-19 testing at the State Laboratory. Depending on insurance status, patients may still be charged for their health care visit; please make sure the patient understands this if you are recommending that they seek care for the purpose of COVID-19 testing.
- Please do not place paper requisition forms directly in the bag with the specimens, as they can be contaminated. Double bagging is required by the Department of Transportation.
- Presumptive positive specimens from commercial laboratories such as Quest and Labcorp should be submitted directly to CDC for confirmation and should NOT be sent to the CDPHE laboratory.
- Asymptomatic individuals will not be tested by the CDPHE laboratory.
- Test results will be made available in LabOnline and through normal reporting channels when finalized. Please do not call public health for this information.



**For 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) or Denver Public Health 303-602-3614.