



COVID-19 Testing Framework for Iowa

Updated 08/06/2020



Healthcare providers can test patients, as they deem appropriate for COVID-19 infection at reference or hospital laboratories. If healthcare providers choose to test a patient through a reference or hospital laboratory, there is no need to call IDPH for approval. The specimens should be sent directly to the reference or hospital laboratory in accordance with the laboratory's guidance. These laboratories typically charge patients for this testing; public health has no funding to cover the costs of these tests.

Viral Test for COVID-19

The State Hygienic Laboratory will continue to perform COVID-19 PCR testing in accordance with one of the following criteria (these criteria may broaden as the pandemic expands and additional testing resources become available).

-
- Hospitalized patient (of any age) with fever or respiratory illness for diagnosis or any hospitalized patient prior to discharge to a long term care facility or other nursing care facility
 - Older adult (> 60 years of age) with fever or respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing) and chronic medical conditions (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, immunosuppressive medications, chronic lung disease, or chronic kidney disease)
 - Person of any age with fever or respiratory illness who lives in a congregate setting (i.e., long term care facilities, dormitories, residential facilities, correctional facilities, treatment facilities)
 - Healthcare worker, essential services personnel, first responder, or critical infrastructure worker with fever or respiratory illness (e.g., healthcare worker, fire, EMS, law enforcement, residential facility staff, food supply, and water plant operators)
 - Children receiving care in and staff working in childcare homes and childcare centers with fever or respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing) without alternative diagnosis
 - Preschool / K12 students and staff with fever or respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing) without alternative diagnosis
 - University / college students and staff with fever or respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing) without alternative diagnosis

- Symptomatic and asymptomatic close contacts (defined as spending more than 15 minutes within 6 feet) of persons who test positive for COVID-19 infection using PCR viral testing (close contact testing should not occur until at least 48 hours after the earliest exposure to COVID-19 positive persons)
-

If patients meet the testing criteria, please submit the specimen to the State Hygienic Laboratory in accordance with the diagnostic PCR testing guidance available at, <http://shl.uiowa.edu/dcd/covid19.xml>. The cost of this testing is assigned to the public health system.

Please ensure you are using appropriate infection control guidance when collecting specimens, which includes at a minimum contact and droplet precautions with eye protection.

Antibody Testing for COVID-19

The State Hygienic Laboratory will perform COVID-19 serology (antibody) testing in accordance with one of the following criteria (these criteria may broaden as the pandemic expands and additional testing resources become available).

- A patient suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 who is greater than 7 days post symptom onset, or a patient exposed to a known case of COVID-19 more than 7 days in the past
 - Identification of persons with an antibody response to serve as convalescent plasma donors
 - Healthcare worker, essential services personnel, first responder or critical infrastructure worker (e.g., healthcare worker, fire, EMS, law enforcement, food service worker and residential facility staff) for whom knowledge of antibody production is needed
-

If patients meet the testing criteria, please submit the specimen to the State Hygienic Laboratory in accordance with the serologic antibody testing guidance, available at <http://shl.uiowa.edu/dcd/covid19.xml>. The cost of this testing is assigned to the public health system.