

Just in time guidance for healthcare providers testing patients for COVID-19

Updated 02/12/2020





Checklist for Healthcare Providers Testing Patients for 2019-novel Coronavirus

Updated 02/11/2020

- Do you have proper personal protective equipment?**
 - Respirator- fit tested N-95 or PAPR
 - Gowns
 - Gloves
 - Eye Protection- Goggles or Faceshield
 - Droplet/surgical mask on patient

- Do you have the right supplies to collect specimens?**

A nasopharyngeal swab and oropharyngeal swab should be collected.

 - See specimen collection guidance on page 3 for more detail
 - Do you have synthetic fiber swabs with plastic shafts?
 - Do not use calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden shafts.
 - Do you have viral transport media?
 - Do you have the test request form to include with specimens?
 - Have you labeled each specimen collection tube with patient name & date of birth?

- Is the patient in a negative pressure room or in a patient room with the door closed?**

- Have you made a list of any healthcare providers or other patients exposed to the patient being tested prior to their patient being isolated or putting on a facemask?**
 - Please make a list of any healthcare providers who interacted with the patient prior to the patient wearing a facemask or the healthcare provider wearing appropriate PPE.
 - Please make a list of any other patients exposed to this patient prior to their isolation or the patient wearing a facemask.

- If you are discharging the patient to their home, have you educated the patient?**
 - Please advise the patient to go directly home and isolate themselves from other people and animals in the home.
 - Please advise the patient that public health will be contacting them to issue them public health orders shortly.
 - Please provide a paper copy of the guidance for home care (page 2 of this document).
 - Please provide several facemasks for the patient to use on the way and while at home if they need to walk through a common area of the home to get to the self-isolation area.

- After the patient has been discharged:**
 - Complete routine cleaning and dispose of waste under normal protocol.
 - Leave the room out of circulation for 2 hours.

- Have you provided patient contact information to public health? Please provide the following:**
 - Patient name
 - Patient address
 - Patient phone
 - Patient date of birth

Recommendations for patients being discharged to their home

Updated 02/05/2020

Stay home except to get medical care

You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care. Do not go to work, school, or public areas. Do not use public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home

As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people and all animals in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor

If you have a medical appointment, call the healthcare provider and tell them that you have or may have 2019-nCoV infection. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Wear a facemask

You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live with you should not stay in the same room with you, or they should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

Cover your coughs and sneezes

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in a lined trash can and wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, immediately clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.

Clean your hands

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid sharing personal household items

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home. After using these items, they should be washed thoroughly with soap and water.

Monitor your symptoms

Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g., shortness of breath or difficulty breathing). Before seeking care, call your healthcare provider and tell them that you have, or are being evaluated for, 2019-nCoV infection. Put on a facemask before you enter the facility. These steps will help the healthcare provider's office to keep other people from getting infected or exposed. Ask your healthcare provider to call the local or state health department. Persons who are placed under active monitoring or facilitated self-monitoring should follow instructions provided by their local health department or occupational health professionals, as appropriate.

For additional information visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html>

Specimen Collection Guidance

Updated 02/05/2020



Safety Note

Utilize standard precautions when processing clinical samples from potentially infectious patients. Sample processing should be performed in at least a Class II biological safety cabinet following a minimum of biosafety level 2 guidelines.

- Laboratory workers should wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) which includes disposable gloves, laboratory coat/gown and eye protection when handling potentially infectious specimens.

Specimen Type

Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab **AND** oropharyngeal (OP) swab specimens should be submitted on all persons being tested. Sputum samples are requested for PUIs with productive cough. Do not induce sputum collection.

Specimen Collection and Storage

Swab specimens should be collected using only swabs with a synthetic tip (e.g., polyester, Dacron®) and an aluminum or plastic shaft. **Each swab should be placed into a separate viral transport medium tube.** Each patient to be tested should have a minimum of 2 samples (One NP swab and one OP swab in separate containers). Examples of acceptable transport medium are shown. Refrigerate all specimens promptly after collection.

Specimen Labeling and Documentation

All specimens must be labeled with 2 patient identifiers such as name, date of birth, or unique facility identifier and must match the information on the test request form.

Specimen Packaging

The public health courier will be traveling to your facility to pick up the specimens. Place each specimen into a biohazard bag with absorbent material and place completed test request form in the outer envelope. Identify the specimens as refrigerated specimens so that the courier will keep the specimens cold during transport.

