

COVID-19 Testing 101 in Los Angeles County

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Recorded Zoom Webinar

- Zoom Webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/1MxtD5Shy2pJRoXw6gKAY6QrPLjFT6a8hHcbqaYFzEtBKJ4GBISKAYPDX11SQSo2?startTime=1589299825000>

Agenda

- Testing Prioritization and Approaches
- COVID-19 Specimen Collection Types
- Tester Preparation
- Facility or Site Preparation
- Testing Administration
- Results Notification
- Testing Kit Procurement

Testing Prioritization and Approaches

- Outbreak Testing
- Symptom and Exposure Based Testing
- Admissions Testing
- Surveillance
- See state guidance:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Expanding-Access-to-Testing-Updated-Guidance-on-Prioritization-for-COVID-19-Testing.aspx>

Outbreak Testing: Definitions

- An outbreak in a congregate setting or in an encampment is defined as 1 confirmed COVID-19 positive or 2 persons under investigation (PUI) identified within 72 hours.
- Outbreaks initiates a “public health investigation” to deploy resources to this site for site assessment, testing, and facility quarantine (if indicated).

Outbreak Testing: Approach

- Test all **residents and staff** in facility initially.
- Conduct weekly testing of **residents and staff testing negative** until quarantine ends (or no further positives are identified).

Symptom and Exposure Based Testing

Test everyone with symptoms and/or exposures.

COVID-19 Symptoms by CDC:

- ☐ A cough
- ☐ A fever
- ☐ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- ☐ Chills
- ☐ Repeated shaking with chills
- ☐ Muscle pain
- ☐ Headache
- ☐ Sore throat
- ☐ New loss of taste or smell

Exposure Based Testing



- **Close Contact:**
 - Contacts: Within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes.
 - Households Contacts: All household members.
- High risk Exposures:
 - **Institutional Settings:** Jails, prisons, hospitals, ERs, facilities with active outbreaks...

Admission Testing

- **Screening of asymptomatic residents** of congregate living facilities prior to admission or re-admission to congregate living facility
 - E.g., a hospitalized patient will be screened for COVID-19 prior to discharge to a congregate living facility

Surveillance Testing

- Asymptomatic testing on a predetermined population to make inferences about rate of COVID-19 infections and transmission.
- Testing ~ 10% of a congregate or unsheltered population weekly.
- Testing ~ 20% of staff of congregate facility weekly.

Type of Test	Measure	Value	Beneficiary
 <p>Nucleic acid amplification test for viral RNA <i>(nasopharyngeal swab, oropharyngeal swab, sputum, bronchoalveolar lavage fluid, others)</i></p>	Current infection with SARS-CoV-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform individual of infection status so they can anticipate course of illness and take action to prevent transmission • Inform patient management and actions needed to prevent transmission • Inform actions needed to prevent transmission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual • Healthcare or long-term care facility • Public health
 <p>Antibody detection</p>	Past exposure to SARS-CoV-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detect susceptible individuals (antibody negative) and those previously infected • Identify individuals with neutralizing antibodies • Facilitate contact tracing and surveillance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify those potentially immune to SARS-CoV-2 (if tests can detect protective immunity, individuals could be returned to work) • Healthcare facilities: Experimental therapy • Public health

COVID-19 Specimen Collection Types

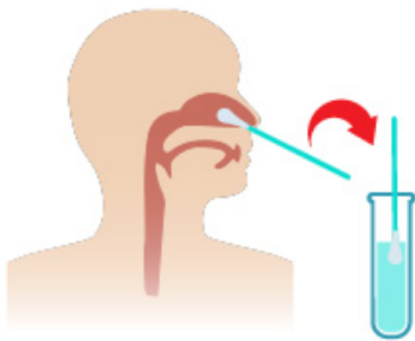
- DO collect molecular “PCR” testing
- DO NOT collect serologic testing for clinical use
- Guidance on serologic testing:
https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/332/2020/05/serology-indications_5-5-2020_final.pdf

COVID-19 Molecular Testing

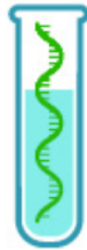
- PCR based testing that detects COVID-19 RNA

Molecular Tests (Nucleic Acid Detection)

Diagnose active SARS-CoV-2 infections



1. Obtain Specimen:
Swab.



2. Extract RNA from
specimen and
convert to DNA.



3. Amplify by PCR with
SARS-CoV-2 specific
primers.



4. Interpret results:
presence of viral
RNA indicates
active SARS-CoV-2
infection.

Sensitivity in ranked order:

- Nasopharyngeal:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVJNWefmHjE>

- Mid turbinate:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55cA9ZOdVFI>

- Oropharyngeal:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syXd7kgLSN8>

- Anterior Nares:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/OASH-nasal-specimen-collection-fact-sheet.pdf>

CDC guide on swab collection: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/professionals/flu-specimen-collection-poster.pdf>

Supplies

- Tables and chairs for testing
- If conducting testing in an unshaded area, pop up tent
- Cooler with cold packs
- Health/medical back pack needs:
 - Test kits (in cooler)
 - Cavicide wipes (to clean vitals, if needed)
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Ball point pens
 - Biohazard bags
 - Trash cans or bags
- PPE for clinical team members
 - N95 masks
 - Gowns
 - Gloves
 - Goggles
 - Face shields
- PPE for non-clinical team members
 - Surgical masks
 - Gloves
 - Eye protection
- PPE for PEH in encampment
 - Surgical or fabric masks

Test Kit Procurement

- Contact jmiller3@dhs.lacounty.gov to establish a WestPac account.
- Establish a facility contact information and drop-off location, date, and time for new kits
- Identify an ordering medical provider (if none, then ok to use to HFH medical provider)
- Provide email address for results web portal
- Coordinate with Jonni about when and where collected specimens will be dropped off for WestPac pick-up.

Tester Preparation

- ✓ Get fit tested
- ✓ Review PPE donning and doffing:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0XMkXu5Kho&app=desktop>
- ✓ Prepare personal protective equipment:
 - ✓ Face shields or goggles
 - ✓ N95 mask
 - ✓ Surgical mask covering N95
 - ✓ Gown
 - ✓ Gloves
 - ✓ Consider: hair and shoe coverings too
- ✓ Re-use all PPE, except gloves, when testing multiple individuals. Sanitize hands and change gloves after each test. Consider changing the surgical mask over your N95 if individual sneezes or coughs on you.

Facility or Site Preparation

- The testing area will optimally be in a shady, outdoor area with good ventilation.
 - If there are no outdoor spaces or if the client is not ambulatory, select a testing room with good ventilation and a window to open during testing.
 - Store the testing kits in a cool area (either inside, shady area, or in a cooler).
- Set up a table and chairs for registration about 15 feet away from the testing area.
 - Registration team should wear surgical mask and gloves.
 - Complete the lab requisition form and label the specimen vial prior to specimen collection.
 - Package the specimen vial in the biohazard bag and fold the top sheet of the requisition form into the front pocket of the biohazard bag.
 - Keep the carbon copy for testing team records.

☐ FASTING
☐ NON-FASTING
☐ STAT

PATIENT'S LAST NAME		FIRST	MIDDLE INITIAL	SEX <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE COLLECTED	TIME COLLECTED <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM
BILLING ADDRESS			APT. #	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	
OPTIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> Client Account <input type="checkbox"/> Patient <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Medi-Cal <input type="checkbox"/> Medicare		BILLING INFORMATION INSURANCE COMPANY ADDRESS CITY/STATE/ZIP MEDICAL # MEDICARE # SUBSCRIBER ID# GROUP #			PATIENT PHONE # Cc: PHYSICIAN Cc: PHYSICIAN FAX # FAX #		PATIENT ID COLLECTED BY
RELATION <input type="checkbox"/> Self <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Other				ICD-10 CODE			

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Requisition Form

[782 SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) by RT-PCR, HIGH RISK
Patient Under Investigation Form (PUI) suggested

Choose the appropriate Test Code

[783 SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) by RT-PCR, UNKNOWN RISK

Sample Types:

Upper Respiratory Tract: Nasopharyngeal (preferred), Nasal or Oropharyngeal Swab

Source: ☐ Nasopharyngeal
☐ Nasal
☐ Oropharyngeal

Choose collection source

UTM, ESwab, M4-RT (Collection Packages)

Lower Respiratory Tract: Sputum (sterile container without preservative)

Collection Instructions:

Nasopharyngeal or Nasal Swab: Suggested collection

Insert a swab into the nostril at about 30 degree angle to 1-1.5 inches. Level the swab parallel to the palate and push until resistance is felt. Leave the swab in place for 5 seconds to absorb secretions. Rotate swab while pulling out. Place swab immediately into Transport Media (UTM, M4-RT or Eswab)
Break swab and tighten cap to avoid leakage. Ship swab in the same transport media.

If nasal or nasopharyngeal swab cannot be collected, oropharyngeal swab is a less ideal but an acceptable alternative.

Oropharyngeal Swab (throat swab):

Swab the oropharynx (tonsils and behind the tonsils), avoiding the tongue.
Place swab immediately into Transport Media (UTM, M4-RT or Eswab)
Break swab and tighten cap to avoid leakage. Ship swab in the same transport media.

Transport: Refrigerated

Specimen Stability: Ambient - 48 hours, Refrigerated - 72 hours

Unsuitable specimen: Swabs not in transport media. Calcium alginate swabs.

Swabs with wooden shafts. Clear Culturettes. Charcoal Culturettes.

This label can be placed on the specimen

OB373578 OB373578

OB373578 OB373578

BS, R, QY, STOOL, PAP, Eswab, ASTUTE: 1) THIS FORM IS ONLY A LIMITED-GUARANTEE TEST. A DIAGNOSTIC CODE THAT MEETS MEDICAL NECESSITY CRITERIA OR AHA IS REQUIRED.
L, U, LB, PHK, SW, OTHER (LEGEND ON BACK)
For any patient of any payer (including Medicaid and Medicare), only order tests that are MEDICALLY NECESSARY for the DIAGNOSIS or TREATMENT of the PATIENT. Tests for screening purposes may be ordered, but Medicare patients require an Advanced Beneficiary Notice (ABN) signed by the patient in order to bill for the specimen for which screening tests will be ordered and 3) for any other test that is not MEDICALLY NECESSARY for the DIAGNOSIS or TREATMENT of the PATIENT. When PCR is required.

Test Requisition Form

***Complete with a ball point pen*

***Keep the carbon copy for your records*

Write in name, sex, date of birth, date collected and time collected.

Write in patient's address. If patient **does not have a fixed address**, please write in the name of the shelter and address OR intersection of the encampment where they are staying.

Write in patient's phone number. If patient **does not have a working number**, then add the provider's or outreach worker's phone number and add the outreach workers name to the "cc: physician" area.

ICD.10 codes for COVID-19
COVID-19 exposure = Z20.828
Cough = R05
Shortness of Breath = R06.02
Fever = R50.9
COVID-10 screening = Z11.59

Add **label stickers** to the white requisition form, the yellow requisition form, clear plastic bag, and the specimen vial.

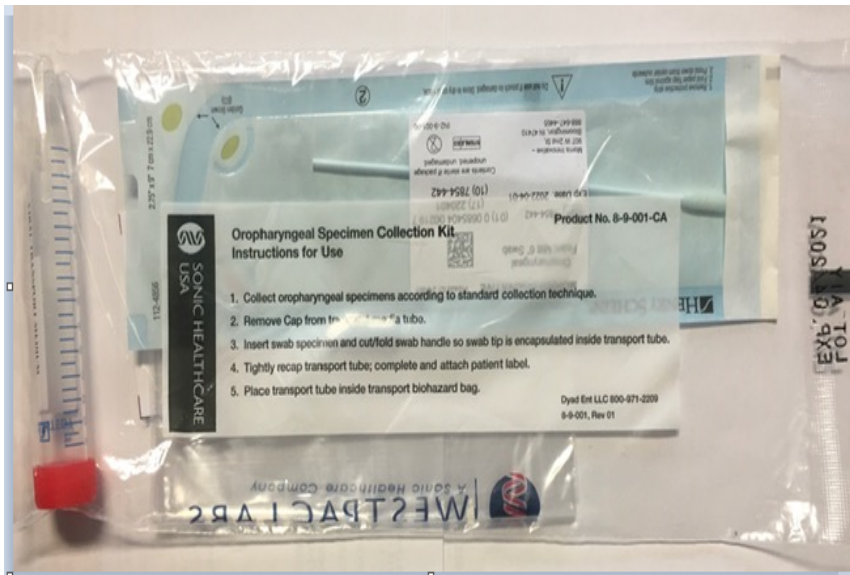


WESTPAC LABS

A Sonic Healthcare Company

WestPac Covid Specimen Collection Kit

Please be advised that the Covid 19 collection kit received can be used for both nasal and oral collections.



Collection VTM Vial
and Patient Label



Specimen Bag



Collection Swab - This foam swab is appropriate for anterior nares and nasal mid turbinate collections and has been validated for COVID-19 testing



Specimen Collection

- One tester model:
 - Request that patient sit down with their head tilted back.
 - Confirm the patient's name and DOB on the specimen vial.
 - Obtain verbal consent for testing.
 - Describe the full procedure to the patient.
 - “This is COVID-19 test. I will be placing this long q-tip into your nose. The procedure will be uncomfortable but should not be painful. It is common to sneeze or cough or for your eyes to water. The procedure takes about 15 seconds, and I will count out loud. Please let me know if you experience pain.”
 - Collect specimen, unscrew the cap of the vial, deposit the flocked swab tip into the collection medium, fold or break off the tip of the flocked swab.
- Two tester model:
 - One tester collects specimen
 - The other tester does the rest.



“This foam swab is appropriate for anterior nares and nasal mid turbinate collections and has been validated for COVID-19 testing.”



Collect the specimen on the flocked swab for superior sample adhesion.



Strong capillary hydraulics between the strands of nylon maximizes liquid sample collection.

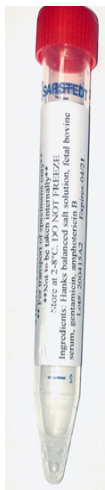


Place the swab in the UTM® transport medium and break or bend the swab shaft at the marked breaking point. The sample collected by the FLOQSwabs™ is released when it comes in contact with the medium.



WESTPAC LABS

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Place collected vial in bag



Fold requisition and registration information (if received) into side pouch of the bag



**Place each specimen collection bag into larger zip lock bag.
Store in a cool area (either a fridge or air conditioned
room).**



Housing for Health Collected Specimen Pick Up Locations

SPA 2: Sherman Hotel - 15485 Ventura Blvd, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403	Sun - Sun anytime	Request the Charge Nurse
SPA 4: Mayfair Hotel - 1256 W 7th St LA, CA 90017	Sun - Sun anytime	Request the Charge Nurse
SPA 5: 1751 Cloverfield Blvd, Santa Monica 90494	Sun – Sun Anytime	Must dial 310-883-1222 to gain access
SPA 7: Bell Gardens - 7330 Eastern Avenue, Bell Gardens, CA 90201	Sun - Sun anytime	Request the Charge Nurse
SPA 8: Serenity Recuperative Care Center - 2125 E. 4th Street Long Beach, CA 90814	Sun - Sun anytime	Request the Charge Nurse

Access Testing Results


- Contact jmiller3@dhs.lacounty.gov if you have questions about accessing WebPortal for results.

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<https://cls.ligolab.com:5001/LigoLabServer/login/index.do>



Please Login

 **WESTPAC LABS**
A Sonic Healthcare Company

Username

Password

Web Reporting Powered By:



Results Notification

1. **Set expectations** before results are available.
 - Its really important to prevent COVID-19 spread by social distancing (6 feet distance, handwashing, wearing a mask, not sharing food).
 - About 25% of people with COVID-19 don't get sick. So many people who test positive for COVID-19 do not have symptoms. Most people will not know how or where they got it.
 - COVID-19 is like the cold or flu, so you can get it at any time. You may get tested many times during this outbreak. We typically recommend to get tested when you feel sick or have been around other people who may be sick.
 - If you do get COVID-19 or have cold/flu symptoms, its important to “self isolate” to stop the spread of COVID-19. We will offer a lot options to keep you safe like going into a hotel for about 14 days or giving you a tent.
2. **Set the scene** to deliver results.
 - The case manager or facility operator will optimally deliver results in person.
 - Always ask the client if it's a good time to talk (get permission to deliver results) and ask the client to be in a quiet, uncrowded area to give the news.
 - If possible, deliver the news with the printed lab slip in hand.

Test Result	Symptom Status	Notification by	Notification timing	Example Scripts
Negative	No symptoms	Case Manager	Next day (if able)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage social distancing
	Symptoms	Case Manager, Site Leadership, and/or medical provider	Next day (if able)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your test result was negative for COVID-19. The test isn't perfect, and I am concerned that you may have COVID-19. Its important to "self isolate" for about 2 weeks to stop the spread of COVID-19. Offer options. Isolation on site if able. Or offer transfer to county IQ site: You can come into a hotel with their own bedroom, bathroom and TV to rest and recuperate with medical care for 14 days. You may be able to bring your partner/family, pets or support animal, and your car
Positive or Indeterminate*	No symptoms	Case Manager, Site Leadership, and/or medical provider	Next day (if able)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You test result showed that you have COVID-19. Many people who get COVID-19 don't feel sick. Its hard to know when or where you got it. But you still may be contagious. Its important to "self isolate" for about 2 weeks to stop the spread of COVID-19. Offer options script.
	Symptoms	Case Manager, Site Leadership, and/or medical provider	Next day (if able)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your tests result was positive for COVID-19, and it may be the reason that you are feeling sick. In most people, COVID-19 is like the cold or flu, but in some people, it can be more serious. Its important to have someone check in on you to make sure that you aren't getting worse. Offer options script.

*Indeterminate is a presumptive positive.

Isolation and Quarantine Duration

For Individuals Living in Congregate Settings (examples Shelters, Interim Housing, SROs, Assisted Living Facilities).

- Asymptomatic, Exposed: Quarantine period is 14 days from date of exposure.
- Asymptomatic, COVID-19 positive: Isolation period is 14 days from COVID-19 test date.
- Symptomatic, COVID-19 negative (PUI): Isolation period is 14 days from symptom start and 72 hours after symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.
- Symptomatic, COVID-19 positive: Isolation period is 14 days from symptom start and 72 hours after symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.

Questions

- For inquiries about tester training, contact Dr. Emily Thomas at ethomas@dhs.lacounty.gov
- For inquiries about new and existing WestPac accounts, contact Jonni Miller at jmiller3@dhs.lacounty.gov