

Date: March 28, 2020
To: Medical Care Providers, Healthcare Facilities
From: Julie Vaishampayan, MD, MPH, Health Officer

Please distribute to all providers and relevant medical staff in your office.

Health Alert

Coronavirus Disease 2019 – Update 4

This Health Alert includes updated criteria for COVID-19 testing in Stanislaus County through the public health laboratory (PHL) (below). COVID-19 testing at PHL is prioritized for situations where a timely result can inform a public health response to implement control measures to reduce spread. Stanislaus County Public Health is not able to obtain specimens for testing or evaluate patients directly.

Testing remains constrained due to shortages of various supplies. Please refer to the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) criteria for evaluation and testing of COVID-19. Patients who are being tested should be presumed to be infectious and given instructions for strict home isolation until they receive a negative test result.

Guidance for Stanislaus County Clinicians:

Indications for testing at the public health laboratory – contact public health for PUI number

1. Signs/symptoms of acute lower respiratory illness in:
 - Any healthcare worker (defined as a person providing direct clinical care to patients)
 - A person residing in a congregate living setting
 - First Responders
2. A person with signs/symptoms of severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g. pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization and without an alternative explanatory diagnosis.

CDC Prioritization for Testing

PRIORITY 1

- Hospitalized patients
- Symptomatic healthcare workers

PRIORITY 2

- Patients in long-term care facilities with symptoms
- Patients 65 years of age and older with symptoms
- Patients with underlying conditions with symptoms
- First responders with symptoms

PRIORITY 3

- Critical infrastructure workers with symptoms
- Individuals who do not meet any of the above categories with symptoms
- Health care workers and first responders
- Individuals with mild symptoms in communities experiencing high COVID-19 hospitalizations

NON-PRIORITY

- Individuals without symptoms

Report COVID -19 positive cases to Stanislaus County Public Health immediately

- Monday - Friday 8 AM – 5 PM call (209) 558-5678
- Afterhours and weekends, call (209) 664-6032

Additional Information:

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC: Evaluating and testing persons for COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>
- CDC: Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 in Healthcare settings: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Finfection-control.html
- CDPH: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>
- Stanislaus County Health Services Agency: <http://schsa.org/PublicHealth/pages/corona-virus/>

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