



Health Alert Network

Tri-County Health Department

Serving Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

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John M. Douglas, Jr., M.D. Executive Director

The pages that follow contain information critical to protecting the health of your patients and the citizens of Colorado.

HAN UPDATE

Number of pages including cover: 6

Subject: **Update - COVID-19 New and Updated Information - March 7, 2020**

Message ID: 3/7/2020 6:45:00 PM

Recipients: HAN Community Members.

From: TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas County, Colorado

Recipient Instructions: **Tri-County Health Department is forwarding you the attached HAN. You may have already received this broadcast if you are on the CDPHE distribution list, however, we wanted to ensure you did not miss this important information. No response is required.**

This HAN contains updated guidance for evaluation, testing and reporting for COVID-19.

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You have received this message based upon the information contained within our Health Alert Network Notification System. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use, or if you have additional questions, call 720-200-1477.

Categories of Health Alert Network Messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service/Public Health Brief: Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

**You may download a copy of this HAN from the TCHD website at
<http://www.tchd.org/259/Health-Alert-Network>**



COLORADO

Department of Public
Health & Environment

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK BROADCAST

MESSAGE ID: 03072020 17:45

FROM: CO-CDPHE

SUBJECT: HAN Update - COVID-19 | March 7, 2020

RECIPIENTS: Local Public Health Agencies / IPs / Clinical Labs / EDs / ID Physicians / Coroners

RECIPIENT INSTRUCTIONS: Please distribute widely in your office

HEALTH UPDATE | COVID-19 UPDATE | March 7, 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 7, 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 for whom you to test.

- Test results will be made available in LabOnline and through normal reporting channels when finalized. Please do not call public health for this information.
- CDPHE testing criteria are unchanged.

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 their local public health agencies 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. We are 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 for whom you to 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)	AND	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)	AND	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)	AND	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 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 are 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/1FAIpQLSeeuBVICLjrfHnhkPIpVioB2kJcqbx3bcwZXpqAo0RVF9-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
- To reset a locked LabOnline account, visit
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPulbfRa4o_iO4itEdtBMJldIMZh0z5S1eHQJlbpjWjAL_ug/viewform
- 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
- To set up a LabOnline user account you must first complete the LabOnline User Agreement. For LabOnline user access assistance: <https://sites.google.com/state.co.us/lsd-horizon-lims/labonline>. Users from facilities that do not permit Google access may need to call 303-692-3399 or email 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 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.

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)