



3/10/2020

** NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.*

**COVID-19 Testing and Reporting Information for Healthcare Providers
 Including Droplet and Contact Precautions: COVID-19 Update #9**

Background:

On January 21, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Washington State Department of Health announced the first case of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States in Washington State. This is a rapidly evolving and changing situation. As of March 10th, Washington State had 267 individuals confirmed as positive and 24 deaths from COVID-19 in 9 counties. Thurston County has not yet received a positive test result. Individuals testing positive with COVID-19 continue to climb. We do know testing is happening in Thurston County as we have received negative test results through both the Washington State Public Health Lab and commercial labs.

Requested Action:

- 1) Management of COVID-19 patients has been changed to droplet and contact precautions.
- 2) There are currently no restrictions on who can be tested for COVID-19 and commercial testing is becoming more widely available. Healthcare providers may test any patient they suspect may have COVID-19.
- 3) Continue reporting both suspect and confirmed cases to your Local Public Health Department. Testing may not change clinical management however, knowing patients' COVID-19 status will help public health track COVID-19 and better respond to the outbreak.

4) Provide patient with handout whether you are testing them or not:

If COVID-19 is being considered, whether testing or not, please provide patients with one of the following guidance documents that best fits the patients situation so they know how to best prevent the spread of infection to other people, and to minimize phone calls to your office and to public health.

- Patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 - <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/COVIDcasepositive.pdf>
- Patients who were exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 case - <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/COVIDexposed.pdf>
- Unexposed patients with COVID-19 symptoms - <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/COVIDconcerned.pdf>

See the DOH website for other resources: <https://www.doh.wa.gov>

4) Refer to testing guidance below

Patients with COVID-19 symptoms considered at highest priority for testing include:

- Healthcare workers
- Patients in other public safety occupations (e.g., law enforcement, fire fighter, EMS)
- Patients involved in an illness cluster in a facility or institution (e.g., healthcare, school, corrections, shelters)
- Patients with severe lower respiratory illness (hospitalized or fatal)
- Patients older than 60 years
- Patients with underlying medical conditions
- Pregnant women
- Patients with worsening symptoms

3/10/2020

Washington State Department of Health does not recommend testing asymptomatic persons. Consider testing asymptomatic persons only if they have been in close contact with a confirmed case. **A negative test result does not rule out an infection.**

Specimen Collection

We received the following information about specimen collection while on a Washington State Department of Health call late yesterday:

- Test kits are not available through the Washington State Public Health Lab.
- Viral transport media can be ordered through the commercial laboratory the health care providers office uses.
- Nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs should be collected as individual specimens using only synthetic tip swabs (ex. Dacron, Nylon, Polyester) with non-wooden shaft.
- Contact the laboratory you are submitting samples to and follow their directions for submitting specimens for testing.
- Individuals providing testing should follow airborne precautions (no need for a negative pressure room) for aerosol-generating procedures like intubation, suctioning, and collecting NP or OP swabs
 - Wear appropriate PPE a fit tested N-95 mask, eye protection (face shield or goggles) gloves and a gown and stand to the side of the patient during specimen collection. The patient should wear a mask over nose and mouth during the specimen collection.
 - A physician on the call indicated he felt confident in collecting an NP and OP specimen using the following PPE when an N-95 mask is not available: A surgical mask and full-face shield, gown and gloves with the patient wearing a mask over nose and mouth during specimen collection. The provider should stand to the side of the patient during specimen collection. See: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>

Testing at Commercial Laboratories

- Healthcare providers should send specimens for COVID-19 testing to commercial laboratories.
 - See each laboratory's test menu for specimen collection instructions, submission forms, and shipping requirements.
- Include the patient's name, date of birth, address and phone number.
- The Washington State Insurance Commissioner has ordered all Washington health insurers to waive deductibles and copays for COVID-19 testing.

Testing at the Public Health Laboratories

Specimens from the following patients can be sent to the Washington State Public Health Laboratories **If seeking testing through the Public Health Laboratories, call your local health jurisdiction (LHJ) with patient information to discuss the case call between 8 AM – 4:30 PM for:**

- Healthcare workers
- Patients in other public safety occupations (e.g., law enforcement, fire fighter, EMS)
- Patients involved in an illness cluster in a facility or group (e.g., healthcare, school, corrections, business)
- Patients with no health insurance

Washington Public Health Lab will fax its results to the submitter and LHJ.

3/10/2020

For submission of specimens for testing through the Washington State Public Health Laboratory:

- Collect two specimens
- Complete and submit the 2019 nCoV Sample Submission Form
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5230/302-018-nCoVSampleSubmission2019.pdf>
include:
 - submitter name,
 - address, phone number
 - fax number.

If the patient can produce sputum, collect nasopharyngeal (NP) and sputum specimens. If the patient cannot produce sputum, collect NP and oropharyngeal (OP) swabs. When collecting NP and OP specimens, use a synthetic swab and place the specimen in 2-3 ml viral transport media, put two identifiers (e.g., name, birthdate) on tubes and form, and store at 2-8C.

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/PublicHealthLaboratories/MicrobiologyLabTestMenu>

Resources:

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>

DOH - Provider guidance on testing:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/Interim-2019NovelCoronavirusQuicksheetProviders.pdf>

DOH – Specimen Collection and Submission:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5240/SCSI-2019-nCoV.pdf>

DOH – Healthcare Provider Guidance -

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020/HealthcareProviders>

CDC COVID-19 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

CDC - Optimizing supply of N95: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Frespirator-supply-strategies.html

CDC Health care Professionals Guidance - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html>

DOH - Droplet Precautions:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/SpecialDropletContactPrecautionsSign.pdf>

Washington State Hospital Association - WISHA website: <https://www.wsha.org/for-patients/coronavirus/>



3/10/2020

THANK YOU FOR REPORTING

TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY	
Voice mail for reporting non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day)	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601
Day time immediately reportable conditions – Call detailed information to the 24-hour Notifiable Condition Reporting Line at 360-786-5470. Messages are picked up hourly. If a call back can't wait call 360-867-2500 and ask staff to locate a Communicable Disease staff.	Phone: 360-786-5470
After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency	Call 1-800-986-9050
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is immediately notifiable	1-877-539-4344

Communicable Disease Updates are posted online at: <http://bit.ly/CDUpdatePHSS>