



COVID-19 Testing Framework for Iowa

Updated 05/06/2020



Healthcare providers can test patients, as they deem appropriate for COVID-19 infection at national reference laboratories. If healthcare providers choose to test a patient through a national reference laboratory, there is no need to call IDPH for approval. The specimens should be sent directly to the reference laboratory in accordance with the laboratory's guidance. Reference laboratories will charge patients for this testing; public health has no funding to cover the costs of these tests.

The State Hygienic Laboratory will continue to perform COVID-19 testing in accordance with one of the following criteria (these criteria may broaden as the pandemic expands and additional testing resources become available).

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- Hospitalized patient (of any age) with fever or respiratory illness for diagnosis or any hospitalized patient prior to discharge to a long term care facility or other nursing care facility.
 - Older adult (> 60 years of age) with fever or respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing) and chronic medical conditions (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, immunosuppressive medications, chronic lung disease, or chronic kidney disease)
 - Person of any age with fever or respiratory illness who lives in a congregate setting (i.e., long term care facilities, dormitories, residential facilities, correctional facilities, treatment facilities)
 - Healthcare worker, essential services personnel, first responder or critical infrastructure worker with fever or respiratory illness (e.g., healthcare worker, fire, EMS, law enforcement, residential facility staff, food supply and water plant operators)
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If patients meet the testing criteria, please submit the specimen to the State Hygienic Laboratory in accordance with the following guidance, <http://shl.uiowa.edu/dcd/covid19.xml>.

There is no longer a requirement to contact IDPH for testing approval prior to submission to the State Hygienic Laboratory. To conserve limited public health resources, please ensure that ONLY specimens from patients meeting the testing criteria above are submitted to the State Hygienic Laboratory. The cost of this testing is assigned to the public health system.

Please ensure you are using appropriate infection control guidance when collecting specimens, which includes at a minimum contact and droplet precautions with eye protection.