



COVID-19 Update Webinar for Health Care Providers



Wisconsin Department of Health Services

March 13, 2020

The recorded DHS Webcast COVID-19 Provider Webinars can be found here <https://livestream.com/dhswebcast/events/9016549>.

COVID-19 Testing

More widely available at:

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH)

Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory (MHDL)

Growing number of clinical and commercial laboratories

Approval from DPH is **no longer needed** for COVID-19 testing.
nCoV ID or PUI numbers are no longer required on PUI form.

Prioritize COVID-19 Testing For

Hospitalized patients who have signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 in order to inform decisions related to infection control.

Other symptomatic individuals such as, **older adults** (age \geq 65 years) and individuals with **chronic medical conditions**, and/or an **immunocompromised** state that may put them at **higher risk for poor outcomes** (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, receiving immunosuppressive medications, chronic lung disease, chronic kidney disease).

Any persons, including health care personnel, who within 14 days of symptom onset had **close contact with a suspect or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient**, or who have a **history of travel from high risk geographic areas** within 14 days of their symptom onset. Testing should be considered for individuals in these group even if **symptoms are mild** (e.g. sore throat).

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

COVID-19 Specimen Update

Combined OP/NP Recommended:

Collect **both** a nasopharyngeal (NP) and oropharyngeal (OP) swab (Dacron-tipped with a plastic or aluminum shaft)

Place both swabs in a **single tube** of viral transport media (VTM or UTM)

<http://www.slh.wisc.edu/clinical/diseases/covid-19/>

Updated Infection Control Guidance

Collection of respiratory specimens for COVID-19 testing should be conducted in ambulatory settings using no less than **droplet precautions**, including **masks, gowns, gloves** and **eye protection**.

Testing should not be deferred if N95 respirators are unavailable.

Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms should be used for aerosol-generating procedures, such as intubation or bronchoscopy.

Updated Infection Control Guidance

During specimen collection for COVID-19 testing:

Wear a facemask or respiratory (if available), eye protection, gloves, and a gown.

Limit number of health care providers present during the procedure to only those essential for patient care and procedure support. Visitors should not be present for specimen collection.

Collect specimen in a normal examination room with the door closed.

Clean and disinfect procedure room surfaces promptly according to established protocols.

New Guidance on Discontinuation of Home Isolation and Home Quarantine

Isolation means the separation of a person or group of people known or reasonably believed to be infected with a communicable disease and **potentially infectious** from those who are not infected to prevent spread of the communicable disease.

Quarantine means the separation of a person or group of people reasonably believed to have been **exposed** to a communicable disease but **not yet symptomatic**, from others who have not been so exposed, to prevent the possible spread of the communicable disease.

Discontinuation of Home Isolation for Confirmed COVID-19 Patients

For patients diagnosed with COVID-19 who are recovering in a home (non-hospital) setting, isolation may be discontinued when both of the following have occurred:

Patient is **free of fever, productive cough** and other acute symptoms of respiratory infection **for 72 hours**

AND

14 days have elapsed from the day the patient first experienced symptoms

Questions

Non-urgent questions: DHSResponse@wi.gov

During business hours: 608-267-9003

After-hours emergency line: 608-258-0099